

Inflation in Britain running at over 30%

sh inflation is running at more than 30 per cent annually, retail price index figures for the six months indicate. The unprecedented rise of 3.9 per cent is likely to be followed by large increases in the next couple of months as budget measures and other factors work their way through. Inflation in the United Kingdom is now worse than almost every industrialized country except Turkey.

April price index up by 3.9%

But there is also a large element of what economists call "suppressed inflation" which has not yet shown up in prices charged to consumers. These are quite apart from the 2.2 per cent which the Chancellor said his Budget measures would add to prices. None of these is reflected in the April index, which is based on prices in the shops on April 15, Budget day.

Inflation in Britain has been tempered during the last six months by the slower increase in import prices (an annual rate of under 10 per cent) than in British domestic production costs despite the depreciation of the pound.

In addition prices are still partly held down by controls, unreasonably compressed profit margins and direct subsidies, to say nothing of the effective subsidy of nationalized industry losses.

As these restraints are removed—though import prices may continue to rise slowly—the suppressed inflation will begin to show in prices in the shops and so in the official retail index.

In these circumstances 30 per cent is certainly a safe estimate of the true rate of price inflation. It compares poorly with annual rates for the six months to March in other countries: 13.3 per cent in the United States; 11.8 per cent in France; 7 per cent in West Germany; 10.5 per cent in Japan; 11.5 per cent in Sweden and 7 per cent in Switzerland.

Only Turkey of the 24 industrial countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has a rate of inflation near Britain's. Even Iceland (43 per cent in 1974) has fallen back to barely half our rate.

While it would be misleading to express an annual rate of increase in April alone (it would be 574 per cent), the rise in the first six months of this year will clearly be formidable.

If an underlying inflation rate of 2 per cent a month combines with another 2.2 per cent added as a result of the Budget measures spread over the next two months, the rise for the six months to June will be more than 18 per cent or, at an annual rate, almost 40 per cent.

If, as the Prime Minister gave a warning last week, pay settlements that resist such increases of this order, the prospects for inflation will become explosive and for the pound, daunting.

Some relief may be felt from new measures to restrain the public sector and from the effects of the rapidly deepening recession. New provisional figures from the Central Statistical Office out yesterday show that national output in the first quarter of the year was actually down 2.5 per cent as compared with 1974 and below the level achieved in every quarter of 1973.



Ilie Nastase, of Romania, disputes a line call at the British hard courts championships and was eventually disqualified. Roger Taylor later walked off court in another dispute. Report, page 21.

Transport House guideline notes appeal pro-EEC ministers

By David Wood

Senior pro-EEC Cabinet ministers were appalled yesterday when they had the first view of Transport House speakers' notes, called "Quit the Common Market", which in the next few days will be in the hands of all constituency Labour parties.

The rift between the Labour Cabinet and the main party on the EEC issue is now not only plain to see but also farcical, and some senior ministers are determined to go out into the country to refute the Transport House document.

To the dismay of pro-EEC ministers, the speakers' notes assert: "The first page of the speakers' notes has the following statements, among others: 'Common Market: Shackles will tighten as time goes by. Industry: Loss of control. Agriculture: Designed to protect the Continental farmer. Cost: Considerable and increasing year by year.'"

More than one pro-EEC minister yesterday marked passages in the speakers' notes so as to make an early refutation of the Transport House argument.

The first page of the speakers' notes has the following statements, among others: "Common Market: Shackles will tighten as time goes by. Industry: Loss of control. Agriculture: Designed to protect the Continental farmer. Cost: Considerable and increasing year by year." The speakers' notes also say: "The impact of Common Market shackles on Britain are not yet fully apparent in this so-called 'honeymoon' or 'honeymoon' of our EEC membership. By the turn of the decade—if we stay in—the iron fetters of our membership will be impossible to ignore. The alliance with the Common Market countries will be exposed as the drastic imbalance it really is with Britain in the classic position of the unhappy spouse, paying out to support an establishment no longer desired and hampered at every turn by the partnership. Arguments put forward for us staying in the Market are defeatist and wrong. . . . We are not yet full

on Monday *The Times* will publish a four-page guide to the EEC referendum. All the issues concerning the Community and the case for and against Britain's remaining a member will be aired. The Community's policies on food, industry and defence will be outlined, and its institutions for finance, law and government explained.

It is still possible to get out. To make one costly mistake is bad enough, but to commit future generations to paying for it would be criminal.

On industry, the speakers' notes, which are expected to be the basis of Labour MPs' speeches, assert that the EEC competition rules forbid any member country to discriminate in favour of its own industry. "This virtually abolishes British control of British industry. No action may be taken to protect our industry or that of other member countries or to protect our products against EEC competition, by way of tax concessions, for instance."

It is argued that Britain could not stop buying EEC goods "even if we can get the same commodity more cheaply from other sources". Moreover, "Common Market rules free capitalist industrialists to leave the country and invest on the Continent, where they get a better return financially, and goods produced in that way could then be imported to Britain."

British industry is not strong enough to bear these additional strains", the notes say. There are particularly hard feelings among Labour ministers about what the notes have to

say on agriculture in the EEC. Some senior ministers regard the facts given as a travesty. It is argued that outside the EEC the United Kingdom would be free to shop around to buy goods more cheaply, and to the horror of Cabinet ministers it is stated that last year the Australians were offering us sugar which we could not buy at an even lower price.

In fact, as ministers point out, Australians, like other Commonwealth producers, were being for the best market prices. Mr. Peart, Minister of Agriculture, will be dealing with that canard in speeches at Workington and Carlisle at the weekend.

On the costs of membership, the speakers' notes say, in spite of government evidence: "Our EEC membership has already been an expensive business. This year we pay £280m into Common Market funds and get back in various ways about £180m. But by 1978 we shall be paying in £550m, getting back £240m and so making an overall net contribution of £310m."

On sovereignty, the notes argue: "that we are losing our independence by joining EEC are not just the ramblings of some later-day imperialist. It is a simple statement of fact. Too many decisions are taken by permanent ambassadors to the EEC. . . . We did not elect them but we are bound by their decisions, which can be enforced by the European Court—a body with power over all British courts. It seems a sad end for British democracy."

All in all, there has been no other time in British political history where a party's headquarters has been in such complete conflict with its own elected Government.

Dons start sanctions to press pay demand

From Brian MacArthur, Editor, The Times Higher Education Supplement, Manchester

The Association of University Teachers agreed yesterday to call on its 26,000 members to refuse to release students' examination results until an arbitration tribunal has made a salary award to universities. On a motion put by University College London and Bedford College the vote at a meeting of the association's council at Manchester University was 134 to 76.

The association also agreed to the use of 20 sanctions if the executive sought further action in pursuit of its 30 per cent salary claim, on which the council agreed to go to arbitration. Sanctions proposed included: absence from work; refusal to examine GCE O and A level and Scottish schools examinations as well as those for the Civil Service, professional bodies and the Council for National Academic Awards; and withdrawal of members from paid work for the Government.

Others were refused to teach or prepare teaching outside normal time; withholding reports from local education authorities and statistics from the University Grants Committee; charging fees for references requested by government departments; and submitting undated resignations from research contracts.

The council also agreed, if necessary, to refuse to take part in the Universities Central Council on Admissions; to seek the support of vice-chancellors from local education authorities and statistics from the University Grants Committee; charging fees for references requested by government departments; and submitting undated resignations from research contracts.

Mr. John Randall, president of the National Union of Students, said his union supported the association over withholding student examination results. Students recognized that university teachers must employ such tactics to press their claims.

If only a handful withheld examination marks, students would be at a disadvantage. The NUS therefore called on all members of the Association of University Teachers to support its action.

Economies hint, page 2

Pentagon holding out little hope for 13 missing Marines

From Patrick Brogan, Washington, May 16

Thirteen Americans are still reported missing in action after the attack on the island of Koh Tang on Thursday in search of the crew of the seized merchant ship Mayaguez. A Pentagon spokesman said this morning: "I wouldn't want to indicate any great hope that they are alive."

One Marine is known to have been killed, by a land mine, 22 were injured, three of them seriously, as well as the 13 missing. The 13 Marines and pilots, were on a helicopter which was shot down in the water 100 yards off the beach on which they intended to land on Koh Tang.

There were 26 men aboard and 13 have been accounted for on the destroyer *Wilson*. Some of the Marines swam ashore and were pinned down on the beach by small arms fire by the Cambodians, while one Marine stayed on the roof of the helicopter, which was above water, and kept in contact with his commanding officers by radio.

The spokesman offered some hope that the missing men might still turn up on one of the many ships involved in the operation, but it would not seem probable that they could all be discovered now, 28 hours after the operation was concluded. Casualties were thus higher than American officers had hoped and the fact that none of the crew of the *Mayaguez* was on Koh Tang means that the Marine assault was unnecessary.

The crew had been taken by their Cambodian captors to Sihanoukville. They were moved from there to another small island, called Kong. Two members of the crew were slightly injured, one by shrapnel and the other from the effect of Tear gas. The Pentagon was unable to say how this happened.

The exact sequence of events is not yet clear but it is evident that the crew were released before the assault on Koh Tang and before the bombing of Cambodian military installations in Sihanoukville. They were put on a Thai fishing boat, which had also been captured by the Cambodians on the high seas, and told to tell the Americans that they had been released on

condition that air attack stopped.

The battle on Koh Tang was well under way by the time *Wilson* picked up the *Mayaguez*'s crew, some time after their release. The attack on Cambodian aircraft, a fuel depot and ships in the harbour of Sihanoukville was timed, according to D. Kissinger, the Secretary of State, to prevent Cambodian forces on the mainland from coming to the rescue of their comrades.

The Pentagon said that one weapon used on Koh Tang was a 15,000 lb bomb, the largest in the American arsenal, apart from nuclear weapons. The purpose of the bombs is to clear ground for helicopter landings.

Dr. Kissinger talked about the episode at a press conference in Washington this morning. He denied that the incident had been desired or sought by the Americans. "We are not going around looking for incidents to prove our manhood," he said.

He was inclined to think that the capture of the *Mayaguez* had not been planned by the Cambodians, but said that the effect was the same. "The implication is that there are limits beyond which the United States cannot be pushed."

It also made the self-evident admission that luck played a considerable part in the result. "As it turned out, military results tended to identify the way it was carried out. There is no doubt that if it had turned out differently your questions would be put in a rather different tone."

The Secretary of State was more than a little caustic in his comments on Thai protests. He said he had not yet received a formal communication from the Thai Government that they were withdrawing their ambassador in Washington, but he assumed that the report to this effect was correct.

The United States had a treaty of cooperation with Thailand which, over a period of years, had led to a degree of cooperation in events in Indo-China. The United States was grateful to Thailand for the help it had given them, and "if we have embarrassed Thailand, we are sorry."

Continued on page 6, col 4

Michael X goes to the gallows

Port of Spain, Trinidad, May 16.—Michael Abdul Malik, who as Michael X dominated Black Power scenes in Trinidad for more than 10 years, was hanged for murder at the Royal Jail in Port of Spain today after a three-year fight to save himself from the gallows.

Malik, aged 41, was executed for killing Joseph Skerrett, a barber, in 1971. Hundreds of people crowded streets round the jail in the heart of the city as the execution was carried out at 7 am.

Armed police had mounted a 24-hour guard on the death cell in the days before Malik died. The execution ended a long and finally vain legal struggle to save Malik's life. His final appeal to the Privy Council in London early this month. It was only on

Wednesday that the Queen signed the order allowing the execution. Malik, who was born in Trinidad, advocated racial violence until he declared a change of view in 1970. He fled from Britain to escape robbery and blackmail charges in 1971 after 20 years in the country.

Early in 1972 the Trinidad police issued a warrant for his arrest after two bodies were found in the grounds of his burnt-out house near Port of Spain.

The bodies were those of Mrs. Gail Skerrett, an English divorcee, and Mr. Skerrett, a Trinidad barber. The police said the woman had 10 stab wounds and had been alive when buried.

During his career in Britain, Malik followed the lead of his main influence Malcolm X, the assassinated United States Black Power leader, in first espousing racial rejection of whites, and then coming round to the view that well-meaning people of all races could work together for a better society.

Malik was born Michael de Freitas, the son of a black mother and a Portuguese father. He took the name Michael Abdul Malik on converting to the Muslim religion.

He left Trinidad as a youth and eventually became an able seaman on board a Norwegian ship. He went to Britain in 1951 and settled in the Notting Hill district of London.

In London, he associated with Peter Rachman, the property racketeer. In 1965 he became president of the Racial Adjustment Action Society, a militantly anti-segregation group.

—Reuter.

Postal workers vote to accept mechanization

By Tim Jones

Post Office workers yesterday dropped their long-standing opposition to mechanization in the industry after Mr. Tom Jackson, general secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers, raised the spectre of a 10p first-class mail, an end to the parcels service, and the loss of 24,000 jobs. Voting to accept mechanization was 6,863 to 4,407.

Mr. Jackson told 1,200 delegates in conference at Blackpool: "The postal service is at the crossroads and a wrong choice of direction will jeopardise our jobs, our earning capacity and our conditions."

It could be, he said, the last chance to gain the time and flexibility needed to defend the level of the service. Although mechanization was only a partial solution to their difficulties, without it the future looked bleak.

Reminding the conference that a Commons select committee is due to report on the postal service in July, he said: "The union will be giving both written and oral evidence to that body. We will defend the present level of service, but without mechanization we could fail. Our jobs, our conditions and our earnings

exist because, at the right price, people post letters and parcels. . . . We have no independent existence. These are the grim facts which this conference is all about."

Without an agreement on mechanization 7,000 jobs could be lost at once. The mechanization proposals cater for a loss of 6,000 jobs over a 12-year period. The parcel concentration scheme, 2,700 jobs over a four-year period. This can be coped with easily on that time scale, but it would be impossible to deal with the loss of 7,000 jobs in one fell swoop.

Without a healthy letter service, the likelihood was that the parcel service would disappear, with the loss of 17,000 jobs.

Conscious that previous conferences have rejected mechanization, Mr. Jackson said that such job loss as mechanization brought could be phased and no one would be made redundant. There was a price level which would send down postal traffic. "We are not far from that point, as the effect of recent price increases shows."

The Government had said it would not continue to subsidize the service, nor could it borrow to meet its day-to-day expenses. Mr. Jackson forecast that the Post Office could have a deficit of about £150m in this financial year.

Record society receipts

Building societies' net receipts in April were a record £406m, £132m above March, the previous best month. Investors deposited £912m compared with the March figure of £688m. Lending was up by £72m to £466m.

Motorways: Conservationists say that pressure by groups protecting the environment has helped to reduce the amount spent on motorways.

Abortion: Leaders of Britain's family doctors said yesterday that under proposed amendments to the abortion laws doctors would be in danger of prosecution.

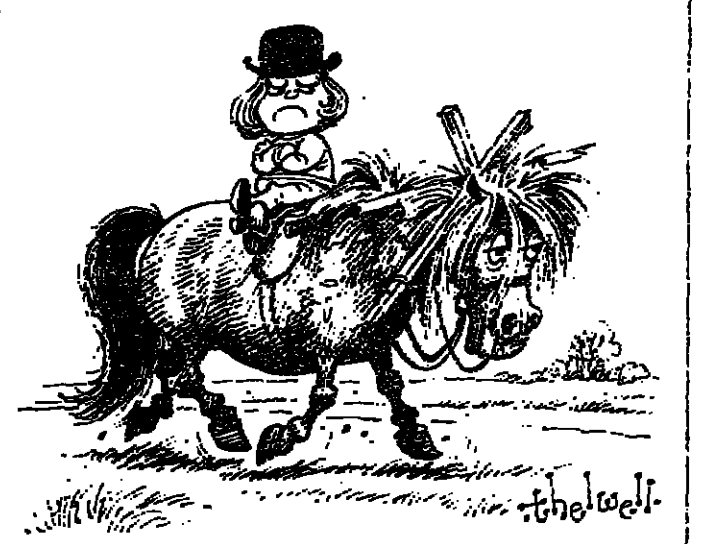
Immigrant arts: The first detailed study of the state and potential of minority group arts is nearing completion.

Lisbon: New Portuguese Government nationalizes more firms and begins purge of the air force.

Middle East: President Sadat has talks with King Hussein in third leg of his tour to cement Arab relations.

Union chiefs' post: Mr. Hugh Scanlon, president of the engineering union, has been appointed to the board of Northern Villiers Triumph.

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Armed Forces to get pay rise of 29%

Pay increases for the Armed Forces averaging 29 per cent, including existing threshold payments, have been approved by the Government. The most junior private soldier will earn £32.76 a week, a lieutenant £33.25 a year and a brigadier £14,002. The cost of the rise will be more than £138m.

Dunlop strike ends

The strike by 700 Dunlop clerical workers, which had closed five car component factories, ended yesterday when the strikers accepted a new pay deal. As a result, British Leyland is recalling 16,500 men laid off and hopes to resume full production soon.

Bill of Rights study

A study into the possibility of introducing a Bill of Rights in Northern Ireland was launched yesterday by Lord Keir, chairman of the government-financed Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights. The work will take up to a year and will be conducted along similar lines to royal commissions.

Concern over trade in human blood

The World Health Organization has drawn attention to the existence of "an extensive trade in human blood". The blood sold by the poor in underdeveloped countries is being exported to affluent nations. It is described as "a river of blood flowing the wrong way".

Ballots in balance

The system of secret postal ballots for full-time officials of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers might end after a national committee vote on the matter resulted in a tie. Mr. Hugh Scanlon, the union's president, has a casting vote but it was not known last night how he had used it.

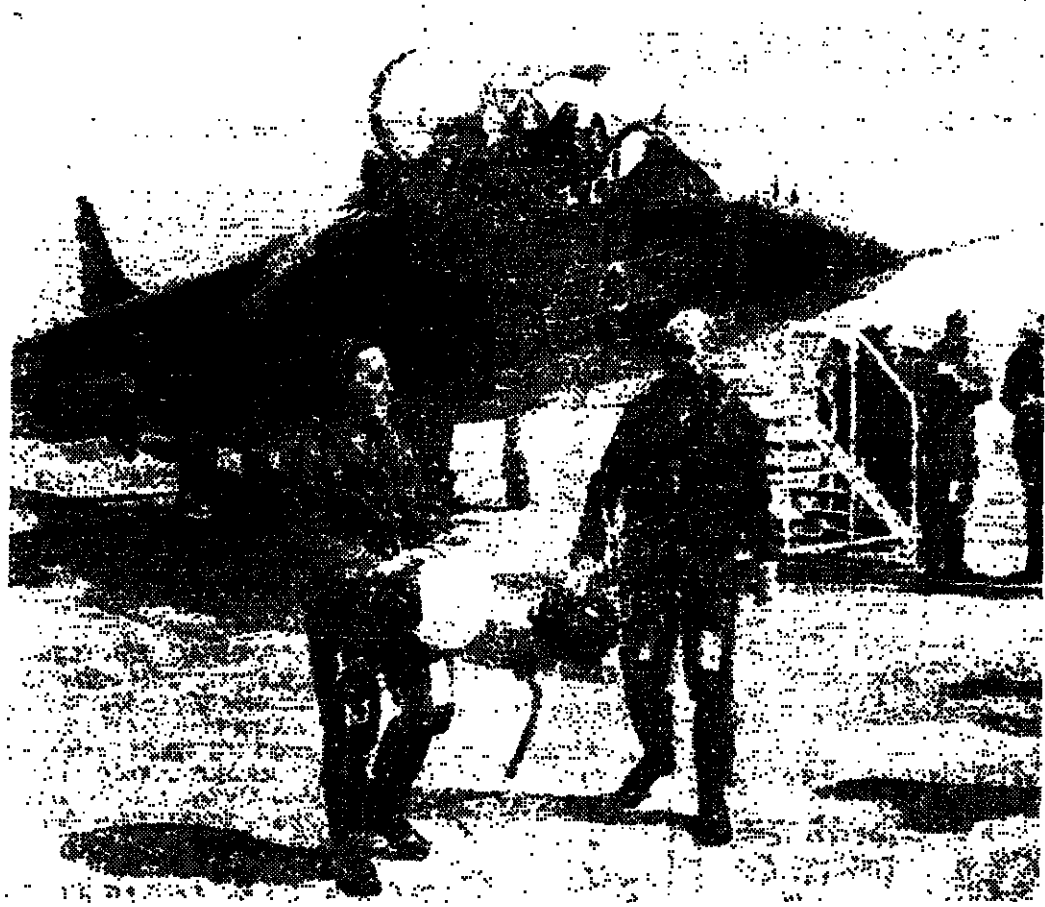
Gulf Oil bribery

The chairman of the Gulf Oil Corporation has admitted at a Senate hearing that his company paid \$5m (about £2.1m) in bribes to foreign states. It was called a "disastrous story".

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HOME NEWS



"Thank you" flight: Mr. Mason, Secretary of State for Defence (left) and Mr. Patrick Duffy, his parliamentary private secretary, are seen in the Harrier vertical take-off jet. Mr. Mason, who announced on Thursday that 25 maritime versions of the aircraft had been ordered for

the Royal Navy, was greeted by 5,000 workers with a huge sign reading "Thank you" as his aircraft, hovered over the Hawker Siddeley works at Brough. He said after the flight: "We lead the world, and by going ahead with manufacture of the maritime Harrier we shall maintain that lead."

Doctors fear prosecution under abortion Bill

By a Staff Reporter

Proposed amendments to the abortion law would expose doctors carrying out therapeutic abortions to the risk of criminal prosecution, leaders of Britain's 23,000 family doctors claimed yesterday.

The public and the medical profession should be made aware of the dangers inherent in the amendment Bill to the Abortion Act, which is being examined by a Commons select committee, the general medical services committee of the British Medical Association said in a statement.

Clause 11 of the amending Bill would make a doctor guilty of an offence unless he proved that regulations had been complied with would rest with the accused. That was contrary to the basic principles of criminal law.

The doctors pointed out that under the present Act a doctor decides whether an abortion is possible partly by comparing the risks of the abortion against

the risks of letting the pregnancy continue. Under the amending Bill there would have to be "grave" risk to the life of the woman or risk of "serious" injury to her physical or mental health or that of her existing children.

The terms "grave" and "serious" are not defined in the Bill and could be determined only in the light of the particular circumstances of the case by a jury.

Doctors would be at permanent risk of criminal prosecution and their free exercise of clinical judgment as to what is in the best interests of the health of the woman would be inhibited by the constant fear that legal interpretations of the words "grave" and "serious" might go against them, the BMA committee stated.

The proposed amendments would put the law on abortion back by a generation, it said. It would prove unduly oppressive to the rights of women as well as to the position of any doctor recommending or carrying out a therapeutic abortion.

Study aims at development of minority group arts

By Kenneth Gosling

Arts Reporter

The first comprehensive and independent study of arts activities among minority groups in Britain is being carried out with the backing of the Arts Council, the Community Relations Commission and the Gulbenkian Foundation.

Work began last September and a report and recommendations on the state, contribution and potential development of the arts among ethnic minority groups is due to be published in the autumn.

The inquiry is also designed to assess what latent artistic talents can be encouraged by increasing resources for arts activities in minority groups.

Miss Nasreen Khan, the organising consultant, former theatre editor of *Time Out* and co-founder of Notting Hill's black newspaper, *The Hustler*, has travelled more than 2,500 miles to talk to people involved in steel bands, dance groups

and festivals, as well as to playwrights, painters, teachers, arts administrators and local councillors.

There is a curious attitude that if you have a Welsh society, all well and good, but if you have a West Indies drama group, that is particularly racist, she said.

Another task was to encourage immigrant minorities to see themselves as part of the general art structure in the country, to see that they had rights and that their contribution would be welcome.

Another aspect was the place of the black artist in drama schools. In eight schools it was found that only 10 out of 673 students were black British actors.

Details of the inquiry were given at a press conference in London yesterday, introduced by its chairman Professor A. G. Hines, of Birkbeck College. Evidence may be sent to Miss Khan, 36 Grafton Road, London, NW5 2EJ.

Man in 'Scots Army' case changes his plea

One of the seven accused in the "Scottish Army" conspiracy trial at the High Court in Glasgow changed his plea to guilty on certain charges yesterday.

Tony Tunilla, aged 25, of Avonpark Street, Glasgow, will be sentenced at the end of the trial. He admitted that he formed part of a criminal conspiracy to further the aims of the Army of the Provisional Government of Scotland with the intention of robbing a bank.

Lord Keith directed the jury to find Mr Tunilla guilty of taking part in the armed robbery of a branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland at Springburn Road, Glasgow, involving £8,000, and being in unlawful possession of a shotgun used in the robbery.

Mr Hugh Morton, QC, advocate-depute, accepted Mr Tunilla's pleas of not guilty to charges relating to explosives; the destruction of power supplies, dams and labour exchanges; and conspiring to commit other acts listed in the indictment.

The six other men all deny criminal conspiracy to further the purposes of the Scottish Army of the Provisional Government.

The trial continues on Monday.

Dockyard man suspended

A Royal Navy official at Portsmouth said yesterday: "Mr Harry Fulthorpe, the general manager of Portsmouth dockyard, has been suspended pending the outcome of an official inquiry."

Case ready for trial wait 15 months

Mr Jeremiah Harman, QC, protested in the High Court yesterday at the prospect of a case which is ready for trial having to wait 15 to 17 months before it is heard.

Two actions concerning the validity of property mortgages had been fixed to be heard last January. They were taken out of the Chancery Division's "long witness" list after it was thought that the dispute would be fully settled.

Sir Anthony Ploymann, the Vice-Chancellor, was told that agreement had been reached in one action but negotiations in the other had broken down. For the trial of the second, estimated to last 15 days, the parties had been offered a date in October, 1976.

Former brokers jailed for fraud and theft

Prison sentences were passed at Bristol Crown Court yesterday on three former stockbrokers convicted of fraud and theft involving money and shares belonging to clients.

Bernard Bartlett, aged 64, of Manor Terrace, Brixham, Devon, the senior partner of Bartlett and Company and a former Bristol city councillor, was jailed for two years.

In brief

Newbury picket by stable lads

About fifty striking stable lads from Newmarket picketed Newbury races yesterday campaigning for better wages. They stopped horse boxes and persuaded most drivers, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, which is also the jockeys' union, not to cross picket lines, so horses had to be walked on to the course.

The lads also blocked out BBC television coverage of the racing by persuading technicians not to operate the cameras. The photo-finish equipment and racecourse mobile camera patrol were also not operating.

Move to catch rapist

Mr Frederick Drayton Porter, Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, said yesterday that he was putting senior officers, including five chief superintendents and 12 superintendents, back on the beat in an attempt to catch the Cambridge rapist.

Blind girl backed

Bradford University will spend £5,000 on a braille adaptor to a teletext computer for Miss Claire Wheeler, aged 19, of Taunton, who is blind and starts next term on a degree course demanding computer operating.

Taxing aircraft collide

A British Airways jumbo aircraft and an Aet Liasus Boeing 737, carrying more than 300 passengers between them, collided at Heathrow airport, London, yesterday while taxiing for take-off, but no one was hurt.

Students switch sit-in

Students at Warwick University, protesting at increased rents, switched their sit-in yesterday from the administration block to the arts centre, allowing staff into offices for the first time in three weeks.

Woman freed

Mrs Jean Boag, who was jailed two weeks ago for causing a nuisance at Dr John Woodwoody's south London surgery, was freed by Mr Justice Foster in the High Court yesterday.

Newspaper returns

After being halted for three days by an unofficial dispute involving members of the National Graphical Association, *The Daily Telegraph* was published again in London yesterday.

Over 300 drivers to get pardon

More than 300 drivers convicted of offences against traffic regulations in Nottingham are to get pardons and their fines refunded because of faulty traffic signs in the city. A further 326 have had criminal proceedings against them withdrawn. Fines totalling £1,500 will be returned when the pardons have been confirmed.

Nottinghamshire County Council said that access signs had been changed because the police felt they were unclear.

EEC REFERENDUM

Europe as big export market has not worked, Mr Benn says

By Penny Symon

Mr Heath's promise that the EEC would make Britain prosperous and bring positive, substantial and immediate gains has been proved false, Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, said in Coventry last night.

"They told us in 1971 that the Common Market was our most promising export market. Now, three years later, he said Britain's trade deficit with the nine stood at more than £2,000 million. Our industrial investment stands at 900,000. We were told that inside the Common Market prospects would open up for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and all the development areas."

"Now, three years later, many factories and plants in those areas have closed down because they are thought too distant from Europe's industrial heartlands, the golden triangle from which they are excluded."

Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, told a meeting in Accrington that EEC membership had worked, and would work, to the disadvantage of the UK textile industry.

"Our membership has resulted in even greater import penetration which is dealing daily body blows to thousands of Lancashire families, and our membership makes it more difficult to take effective counteraction."

Mr Douglas Jay, MP, vice-chairman of the National Referendum Campaign, said in Leeds that there was no prospect of Britain's disastrous trade deficit being cured if the country remained in the EEC, because the country had become too dependent on the EEC for its exports.

Mr Ian Mearns, Labour MP

for Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green and Bow, said that in 1972 Mr Heath told Britain that if the country went into the EEC the economy would be stimulated so much that Britain would get rid of the queues of unemployed workers; but exactly the opposite had happened and the EEC was putting Britain on the dole.

Mr William Whitelaw, deputy leader of the Conservative Party, said in Cumbria that when Britain joined the Community there was a fear that as a result food prices could rise steeply, but in practice that had not happened.

"There has been a growing food shortage in the world and food prices have been rising steeply. In consequence our prices have risen fast too, but this has not been due to Britain's membership of the Community," Mrs Shirley Williams has convincingly shown.

Dr Dickson Mabon, MP, chairman of the Labour Campaign for Britain in Europe, said in Wokingham that membership of the European Coal and Steel Community was a great opportunity to strengthen Britain's steel industry, expand exports and fight unemployment, and that the steel industry was urging steel workers to vote "yes" in the referendum.

Mr David Knox, Conservative MP for Leek, said in York that since Britain joined the EEC the country received more than £200m in loans and almost £100m in grants from European funds and the investment bank. That money was being used to create new jobs, to retrain the unemployed and to help those in need.

Union chief thinks Britain was duped

By Our Labour Staff

Britain had been tricked and duped into joining the EEC by promises of Eldorado, Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, told the north-western area conference of the National Union of Mineworkers yesterday.

He went on: "The Labour Government have made a valiant effort to try to make the best of a bad job, but they would be the first to admit that they have no been able to renegotiate the Rome Treaty. All they have been able to do is tinker around with one or two things."

Mr Jones said that the spectre of unemployment was haunting the EEC countries; although Britain had the lowest rate of the nine, Norway, Switzerland and Sweden had rates of only 1 per cent and Australia a rate of only 2 per cent.

"It is clear that the Common Market is not the solution to the economic problems of working people, but big business wants us to remain members," he said. In 1973 there had been a loss in investment in jobs to this country of £400m. He said that £500m British money had been invested on the Continent and £100m from Europe invested in Britain.

"British capital is drained away at the expense of jobs in Britain because that is the big business approach," Mr Jones said.

Liberal warning

A warning that Britain's exit from Europe would have "disastrous" consequences on the North Sea oil industry was the argument of a manifesto launched by Liberals in the region yesterday.

Withdrawal would lead to sharp rise in unemployment, Mr Rippon says

By Roger Berthoud

Using a poll of 523 British firms published in *The Evening Standard*, Mr Geoffrey Rippon (Conservative MP for Hexham), yesterday said that withdrawal from the EEC would lead to a sharp increase in unemployment.

Mr Rippon, the chief negotiator for Mr Heath's government of the terms of Britain's entry, was sharing a British European press conference in London with Mrs Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection. He pointed out that the poll of large and small firms, conducted by Opinion Research, had shown that 73 per cent of the chief executives questioned believed their firms would be harmed by withdrawal, compared with 6 per cent who thought they would benefit.

Forty-one per cent believed they would invest less in Britain in the event of withdrawal, and 31 per cent said they would invest more. 51 per cent said they would employ fewer, only 5 per cent would employ more and 21 per cent said they had cancelled, reduced or delayed investment in Britain because of the uncertainty about British membership.

Mr Rippon said that, if Britain stayed in the EEC, it would enjoy unrestricted and permanent access to a home market of more than 250 million people when tariffs were fully dismantled. That would obviously improve job prospects.

He said he thought Mr Benn's argument in *The Times* yesterday that the British could not compete adequately in the EEC was defeatist; to compete would be even more difficult if they were deprived of part of the market by higher tariffs.

Mrs Williams said that advocates of a "siege" economy greatly underestimated the amount of obligatory retaliation from non-member states.

The United States Trade Act of 1974, for example, required the Administration to retaliate if the United States firms complained with justification of unfair competition by exporters to the United States.

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PARLIAMENT, May 16, 1975.

Avoiding patronising concept of the statutory woman

House of Commons

MRS MAUREEN COLOUGH (Northampton, North, Lab.) moving the second reading of the Balance of Sexes Bill, said it sought to ensure that appointments to the boards of public bodies and corporations, tribunals and to juries, and the House of Lords should consist of men and women in equal numbers.

There were 124 public bodies according to her own count. There was an Office of the Inspector of Prisons, but no women, or tribunals, but to do with the law. Of course, the umpire was a man.

The Sugar Board had five male members and no women. The Agriculture Board had 27 men and no women. Was the only role for women in agriculture that of farmer's wife?

The Civil Service Authority had six men members, and no women. The National Bus Company had seven men, no women. Of course, women did not travel on buses, nor apparently on trains, because the British Railways Board had 12 male members and no women.

But it was not bleak. Under Mrs Shirley Williams, the National Consumer Council had 13 women members, and the most recent for the Guinness Book of Records. The Women's Liberation Movement was the best thing to have happened to women since the Suffragettes. Liberatorists had been given a bad press. Men had been so frightened they had sought to generate them with sexist jokes about burning bras.

MR JOHN GARRETT (Northwich, South, Lab.) he believed in positive discrimination in favour of those who had never held an appropriate place in the nation's power structure. Discrimination against, or the refusal of equal opportunity to, women was a deep-seated feature of society.

MR JAMES DOUGLAS (Hamilton, Edinburgh, West, C.) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Great Britain's net contribution in relation to the EEC would be from January, 1975, to date, and what percentage of Great Britain's total public expenditure this figure represented.

MR JOEL BARNETT, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said in a written reply: On the basis of provisional figures of the EEC, the United Kingdom's gross contribution to the European Community budget in the first four months of 1975 was £146m.

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OVERSEAS

Gulf Oil chairman tells 'dismal story' of bribes to foreign states

From Frank Vogl
US Economics Correspondent
Washington, May 16

In a tense Senate hearing today, Mr. B. R. Dorsey, chairman of the Gulf Oil Corporation, admitted under oath that his company had made illegal political payments amounting to \$4m (£1.7m) to the ruling party of South Korea. Other payments totalling \$350,000 had been made during the 1960s to the late General René Barrientos, when he was President of Bolivia, and to members of his party.

In a soft and at times shaking voice, Mr. Dorsey told the Senate subcommittee on multinational companies that "during the period 1960 to July, 1973, approximately \$10.3m of corporate funds had been used for various political contributions or related political purposes, of which approximately \$5m was used abroad."

Watergate investigations and subsequent inquiries by the Securities and Exchange Commission had disclosed that Gulf made illegal political contributions, but until today the full details were not known. The Senate committee was prepared to extract all the facts from Mr. Dorsey.

In the event, he made many of his most astonishing disclosures in a lengthy opening statement. It drew the response from Senator Frank Church, the committee's chairman, that "this has been a dismal story that you have told. We know it and you know it."

Mr. Dorsey said that \$4m in political payments went to the Democratic Republican Party of the Republic of Korea because of demands "by high party officials". The demands were accompanied "by pressure which left little to the imagination as to what would occur if the company would choose to turn its back on the request."

In 1966 the company made a contribution of \$1m. In 1970, Mr. Dorsey said, Mr. S. K. Kim, the finance chairman of the Korean Democratic Republican Party, demanded \$10m to help in an election. After Mr. Dorsey said he was subjected "to the sort of abuse that I have never received before," Gulf agreed to contribute \$2m.

Under cross-examination, Mr. Dorsey said he could not recall exactly what Mr. Kim had said, but he supposed that the threats were made in the name of President Park. He admitted that he had not at any time sought aid from the United States Embassy in South Korea or from the Department of State, "because in my experience the United States Government has never provided very helpful in the things because, I suppose, I was ashamed of what was going on."

In Bolivia, he said, the company spent \$110,000 on buying a helicopter for General Barrientos in 1966, and later made payments totalling \$240,000 to members of the President's political party.

Mr. Dorsey explained that investigations were now going on to determine exactly how all foreign and domestic political contributions went. He said that one of \$50,000 was made via the First National City Bank in Beirut, "for the purpose of helping to defray the expenses of a public education programme endeavouring to bring



Mr Dorsey: "I was ashamed of what was going on."

about a better understanding in America of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

When pressed for a more precise explanation, Mr. Dorsey said his memory was hazy, but he believed the money went to help Arab propaganda, and he could not remember why the Arabs could not afford the money for such publicity themselves.

He also admitted that, with the aim of concealing the contributions, Gulf had used its branch in the Bahamas for most of the book-keeping and the transfers of the bribes and payments. He said that some \$5,170,000 of funds went from the Bahamas company to the United States for political purposes, such as "contributions, gifts, entertainment and other expenses."

Mr. Dorsey noted that the public about the investigations had already led to his company's assets being expropriated in Peru, and to special investigations in Ecuador and Venezuela.

Earlier he stated that Gulf's managers in all of the 70 countries in which the company operated had reported that "our very status could be threatened now". He admitted that on reflection he regretted that Gulf had made the payments that it had, but he said that sometimes it was almost impossible to refuse to make such payments because of the pressures involved.

However, Mr. Dorsey's view was not accepted by the committee members, who emphasized that actions like those taken by Gulf undermined governments, complicated relations between the United States and foreign governments, and greatly weakened public confidence.

The most outraged member of the committee was Senator Percy, a former president of large American companies, who maintained that he always had found the State Department helpful in delicate company matters with foreign governments.

He and other members of the committee suggested that corrupt practices had smashed the governments of Cambodia and South Vietnam. Senator Percy declared: "Corruption is the dry rot of the capitalist system or any other system for that matter."

Mr. Dorsey said in his speech that this was "a visit between old friends". He pointed out that he was the seventh American president to meet the Shah, and that the Shah spoke for the continuity of good American-Iranian relations.

The Shah replied: "We are proud of being a good and trusted friend of the United States of America, and added that this would continue because "it is a friendship based on permanent, durable reasons."—AP.

Mr Ford is praised for his courage by the Shah

Washington, May 16.—The Shah of Iran congratulated President Ford tonight at a White House dinner for making the right decision for making the Shah's country a free people who want to live in freedom.

He did not mention specifically the armed rescue of the American container ship Mayaguez, but it was clearly implied in the Shah's dinner toast comments.

When the clapping died down, the Shah added: "This is precisely what this world needs—courage, dignity and love of other human beings."

He spoke before more than 120 guests at a white-tie dinner—the most formal social occasion for a visiting head of state since Mr. Ford came to the White House.

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Rebel Mizos raise fears in Delhi

From Our Correspondent
Delhi, May 16

There is concern in Delhi over the situation in Mizoram, a border territory in north-east India. The Government fears the repercussions there of the events in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

"Hostile" Mizos have been up in arms for more than a decade, and their activity has increased recently. The authorities have received reports that the Mizo National Front has joined hands with the underground movement of the Nagas.

There are also reports that some of the hostile elements whose numbers are still limited, are trying to get in touch with China through Burma. Delhi has sought the assistance of Burma to intercept them, but they are likely to evade the authorities.

The Shan and Kachin guerrillas on the Sino-Burmese border are said to be only too willing to help the hostile Mizos.

What is of immediate concern to the Government is the large-scale infiltration of hostile Mizos into the territory's administration, including the police and intelligence. Virtually every government move or counter-move is reported to the Mizo National Front.

Mr Sadat in talks with King of Jordan

Amman, May 16.—President Sadat of Egypt and King Hussein held talks today on strengthening Arab solidarity. The Egyptian leader arrived from the Jordanian capital from Baghdad on the third leg of a tour which has also taken him to Kuwait.

He was given a warm welcome by the King at the airport and after driving through the crowded city centre they held private talks over lunch at the palace where the President is staying outside Amman. King Hussein returned here earlier this week from talks with French, American and British leaders. He was certain to brief Mr Sadat on the outcome of these discussions, especially those with President Ford on Washington's reappraisal of its Middle East policy.

In contrast to the festering disputes between Syria and Iraq, Kuwait and Iraq, and Egypt and Libya, Jordan at present enjoys good relations with all its Arab neighbours.

Addressing King Hussein and other Jordanian officials at a banquet in Amman, President Sadat said the Arabs were now on the path to victory.

"There is no place for despair. We are struggling for hope and our enemy is struggling from a position of despair. The era of pain and disunity has passed away. We exported all this to our enemy."

Egypt had proved its peaceful intentions by announcing it was reopening the Suez Canal and extending the mandate of the United Nations forces in Sinai. "But our enemy is still arrogant."

Repeating King Hussein said Jordan's main determination was to achieve a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied lands, and particularly Jerusalem.

"I found that the world listens to us when we address it with the voice of reason, but we approach it with a unified front,"—Reuters, UPI.

Cairo, May 16.—Egypt and Libya appeared today to be moving towards patching up their differences. An announcement here said that the leaders of the two countries plan to meet shortly.

The proposed meeting will bring together the leaders of Egypt, Libya and Syria—the three members of the Federation of Arab Republics.

Observers here believe that the convening of the Presidential Council of the virtually inoperative federation is a device to bring together the Egyptian and Libyan leaders, with the Syrian President acting as a mediator.—Reuters.

Guerrillas claim responsibility for Israel blast

Tel Aviv, May 16.—An explosion at a classified military plant north of Tel Aviv today sent orange flames and a grey mushroom cloud rising into the sky, eyewitnesses said.

Police said they believed the explosion was an accident, not the result of Arab guerrilla action.

Hundreds of windows in homes and shops in the suburb of Ramat Hasharon were shattered by the blast, and 23 people were taken to hospital with superficial cuts.—UPI.

Damascus, May 16.—Palestinian guerrillas claimed tonight that they had killed or wounded hundreds of military experts and soldiers by blowing up the plant to coincide with the twenty-seventh anniversary of Israel's establishment.—Reuters.

Beirut leader to help transition

Beirut, May 16.—President Franjeh of Lebanon, today accepted the resignation of Mr. Rashid al-Solh, the Prime Minister, but took no action to form a new government.

Mr. Franjeh asked Mr. al-Solh, who resigned yesterday, to stay on in a caretaker capacity until he appointed a Prime Minister-designate.—UPI.

12 killed in fire

Cairo, May 16.—At least 12 people died and 230 were injured in a fire that swept through the Nile delta village of Buhut, officials said today. The village of straw-roofed mudhurs was destroyed in a few minutes.

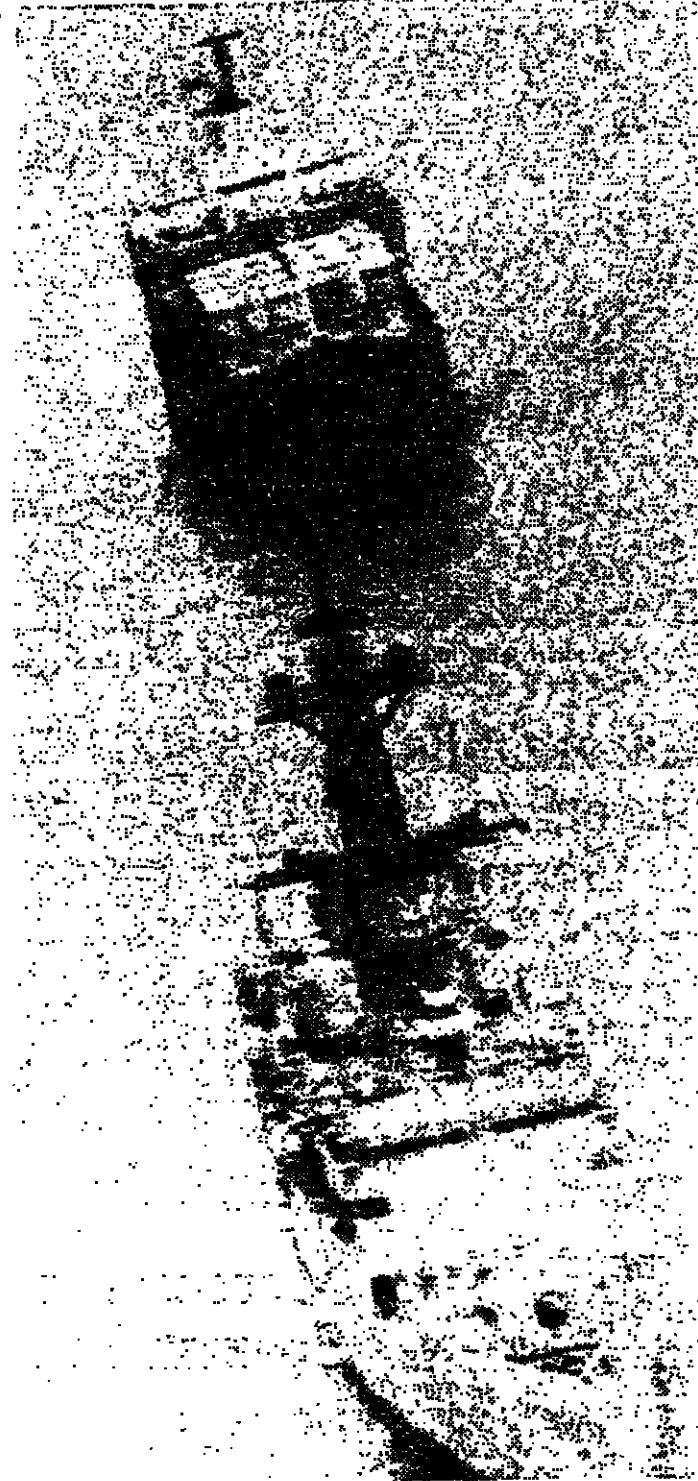
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The Mayaguez is towed away from Koh Tang island by the United States destroyer Harold E. Holt.

Raid by Marines avoided 'humiliating negotiations'

Continued from page 1

He said it was clear that any relation between America and any other country must be based on mutual interest—and America had the right to look for sympathy from its ally on matters of vital interest to itself. Circumstances changed, they were perfectly ready to reconsider their relationship with Thailand.

"We have made it clear that we are ready to negotiate with the Thai Government its new concept of its needs," he said. "They have to understand, however, that we too have our necessities."

Dr. Kissinger said that there had been no consultations with Thailand before U-Tapao was used as a base for the attack on Koh Tang. The chief intention of the American Government in ordering the attack on Koh Tang and the recapture of the Mayaguez was that the United States had to draw the line against illegal action and to avoid a situation where the United States would be forced into humiliating negotiations over the fate of its merchant seamen.

The first decision was to try to prevent the crew being taken to the mainland. He said that when it seemed that this was being done, on Wednesday morning, local time, the order was given to the Air Force to stop it.

The pilot of one American aircraft, about to attack a Cambodian gunboat, noticed a group of what appeared to him to be Americans huddled together, and consulted his superior. They told him not to attack, and this was the one gunboat to get away to Sihanoukville.—Singapore, May 16.—Journalists will be invited on the Mayaguez to inspect its cargo when it arrives tomorrow.

Mr. Michael McEvoy, chairman of the owning company Sealand Services, said yesterday that 77 of its 274 containers held goods for the American military in Thailand but none of this was arms or ammunition. The ship was not involved in any kind of espionage.—Reuters.

Formal end of Sikkim's independence

From Our Correspondent
Delhi, May 16

With the Indian President signing the Sikkim Bill in Delhi today, the Himalayan territory became the twenty-second state of the Indian Union.

The office of Chogyal (ruler) has been abolished. The fate of the Chogyal is not known except that he is confined to his palace in Gangtok.

Mr. B. E. Lal, a member of the Indian civil service, who was chief executive of Sikkim, has been appointed Governor. Mr. Rajinder Sachar has become the Chief Justice of the Sikkim High Court. His predecessor was dismissed.

The strike started after a Quebec Government report made allegations of corruption and strong-arm tactics in the building industry. Government officials have claimed that the men have stayed away from work to demand a new form of union "enforcers"—UPI.

Work at Olympic Games site may be resumed

Montreal, May 16.—The Montreal organizing committee for the 1976 Olympics said that it would reopen its building sites next week, although it remained uncertain whether the workers would end their eight-day-old unofficial strike.

Mr. Ray Beauchemin, information director, said the Olympic village project would open on Monday and the main Olympic park on Thursday. He said most of the workers, all of whom have been technically dismissed, would be reengaged and issued with new identity cards when they reported for work.

Some men, alleged to be instigators of the dispute, would not be reengaged.

The strike started after a Quebec Government report made allegations of corruption and strong-arm tactics in the building industry. Government officials have claimed that the men have stayed away from work to demand a new form of union "enforcers"—UPI.

Thailand to review treaties with US

From Bruce Palling
Bangkok, May 16

Mr. Kukrit Pramoj, the Thai Prime Minister, said today that his Government would hand the United States a memorandum objecting to the recent use of its bases in Thailand for action to obtain the return of the seized merchant ship Mayaguez from the Cambodian authorities.

Mr. Kukrit also said that all treaties made between Thailand and the United States would be reviewed to bring them into line with the changing conditions in south-east Asia.

His statement came after a special three-hour Cabinet meeting. He told a press conference that he would not be asking for an apology from the United States.

Mr. Anant Panyarachun, the Thai Ambassador to the United States, is being recalled for consultations. There is no indication how long he will remain in Bangkok.

Contrary to reports from the Thai military supreme command, Foreign Ministry sources say that Mr. Edward Masters, the United States Charge d'Affaires, had admitted that American aircraft from the air base at Korat, north-east of Bangkok, had taken part in the sinking of the Cambodian gunboats involved in the seizure of the Mayaguez.

Earlier, the Bangkok press had speculated that the Foreign Ministry had prepared contingency plans for an immediate American withdrawal from the remaining four bases, and for refusal to accept the credentials of Mr. Charles Whitehouse, the newly arrived American Ambassador designate.

The relatively mild response of the Thai Government to the seizure of its wishes by the United States was expected by observers in Bangkok, given the strength of the Thai armed

forces and their desire to maintain close connections with the United States.

Mr. Kukrit rejected the notion of hastening the withdrawal of the 25,000 or so American troops before next March, the date already announced. "Speeding up the withdrawal may be inconvenient to us in many ways because we have to take charge of all the camp sites and so on," he said. "We also need time."

At the time of his press conference, a delegation of three members of the new South Vietnamese Government arrived in Bangkok. Mr. Kukrit said that the delegation would discuss relations between the two countries as well as the return of the remaining 50 or so South Vietnamese aircraft flown to Thailand by pilots fleeing after the collapse of the former Government in Saigon.

Earlier this week, North Vietnamese sources in Vientiane had told *The Times* that the delegation would be considering only the question of the return of the American-supplied aircraft.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday that Thailand was willing to return the aircraft—mostly old cargo aircraft and propeller-driven fighters—to the new South Vietnamese Government.

Mr. Kukrit said at today's press conference that a North Vietnamese delegation would be arriving in Thailand on Monday. He did not elaborate.

Observers believe that no important changes are likely to result from the Government's decision to conclude economic and military treaties between the two countries. Instead, the move is considered to be a gesture towards the new South Vietnamese, and Cambodian governments, who are wary of the presence of American forces close to their countries.

New rulers start to bring peasants into Phnom Penh

Bangkok, May 16.—Cambodia's Khmer Rouge rulers are repairing Phnom Penh's Pochentong airport and other facilities in the capital "so that the city can become active again".

Radio Phnom Penh said today, in a broadcast monitored in Bangkok, the radio indicated that the new rulers had already moved peasants from the countryside into the city, which was forcibly evacuated by its two million inhabitants soon after the Khmer Rouge took over a month ago.

Because the new inhabitants were not used to living in towns, Khmer Rouge troops and revolutionary forces were instructing them in basic hygiene, the radio said.

There were unspecified infectious diseases in the capital, and the troops and revolutionary groups were taking care of sanitary arrangements, it added.

The radio did not indicate how many people now lived in the capital or whether any of the former inhabitants would be allowed back.—Reuters.

In brief

Queen preferred to a president
Port Moresby, May 16.—In a surprise move, the Papua New Guinea Government has decided to ask the Queen to be head of state rather than have a president.

Mr. Michael Somare, Chief Minister, said today that his Cabinet believed a majority of the people wanted the Queen as head of state. Ties with the monarch would give the country a sense of security while it adjusted to nationhood.

Farmer's ear cut off
Salisbury, May 16.—Terrorists cut off the ear of an African farmer on Wednesday in the Rhodesian Government said today in its latest statement on anti-insurgent operations in the north-east of the country.

Bermuda holiday
Mrs Barbara Stonehouse, wife of the runaway Labour MP, flew from Heathrow airport to Bermuda yesterday. Mrs Lillian Sheppard, her mother, said Mrs Stonehouse was going there for a short holiday.

Women near summit
Katmandu, May 16.—A Japanese women's expedition trying to scale Mount Everest set a high altitude record for women when pitching camp at 27,988 ft. They are now only about 1,400 ft from the summit.

New foreign minister
Khartoum, May 16.—Mr. Camal Muhamed, aged 58, formerly Sudan Ambassador to Britain, has been appointed Foreign Minister to succeed Dr. Mansour Khalid, who was named to the Ministry of Education in January.

Mr Kosygin in Tunis
Tunis, May 16.—Mr. Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, talked with President Bourguiba of Tunisia today. Further talks are planned for tomorrow morning.

Gang stoned to death
Nairobi, May 16.—Workers at a building site in Nairobi stoned to death four members of a gang that attempted to snatch a £26,000 payroll, police said today.

Aegean exercise
Ankara, May 16.—Warships from Britain, Italy, the United States and Turkey gathered in the Aegean port of Izmir for a one-month exercise aimed at improving naval coordination between the NATO allies.

Fuel curbs relaxed
Johannesburg, May 16.—Speed limits on South African roads have been raised from 50 to 55 mph and petrol stations allowed to open on Saturday mornings, in moves relaxing fuel curbs imposed 18 months ago.

Law Report May 16 1975

Court of Appeal.

Convictions upheld after two trials

Regina v John
Before Lord Justice Scarman, Mr Justice Canby and Mr Justice Kerr

A man accused of attacking a woman and her son who was said by the woman to be a child molester, was convicted by a jury after two trials. The first trial, because the jury did not reach a verdict, was a retrial. The second trial, because the jury did not reach a verdict, was a retrial.

Mr de Silva submitted a verdict was unsafe and factually based. He had acted as a spotlight on the evidence, thus making identification wholly untrue. The evidence was unreliable and the verdict was unsafe and factually based.

LORD JUSTICE SCARMAN said that at about 10 on one night in November 1971, in Church Street, Stoke Newington, Mrs May Swinson was seeing off her son and his wife and daughter. They were noticed a coloured man close to the door of her flat, watching them. He spat into the doorway, Mrs Swinson's neck and jaw slipped him in the face. The man retaliated by assaulting her. Her husband and daughter ran across the pavement and ploughed the man to a wall. The man then made a murderous attack on Mr Swinson, slashing his neck and jaw.

At an identification parade three days later, Mrs Swinson, her son and his wife independently picked the appellant. The appellant said that the man who attacked them was not the man who had attacked them.

The appellant had been originally convicted on the count by the unanimous verdict of a jury in March, 1973. In the following June the Court of Appeal had ordered a retrial.

It had been canvassed before the Court of Appeal then that Mrs Swinson, who was 5ft 5in, said the assailant was shorter than she was, while the appellant said that he was 5ft 6in.

It had also been contended that the identification parade was unfair and unsatisfactory because, although all the identifying witnesses relied on by the prosecution were wearing a "leather type jacket", only the appellant wore a jacket of that type at the parade.

The officer who conducted the parade, however, conceded that it would have been better if others in the parade had also worn similar jackets.

No doubt something had also been said of the fact that people unfamiliar with coloured people might experience difficulty in identifying them.

It appeared from the judgment of the Court of Appeal that none of these points had been sufficient to undermine the verdict of the jury.

However, another point not canvassed at the trial in 1973 was taken before the Court of Appeal. Mrs Swinson and her son's wife had both said that the assailant had been wearing sideburns. The son had not said so.

When identified the man was not wearing sideburns. The man who had been identified as the assailant in the first trial, because the jury did not reach a verdict, was a retrial. The second trial, because the jury did not reach a verdict, was a retrial.

In Savannakhet, one American detained by last Wednesday spoke United States Ambassador. He said that his team sent from Vientiane no progress was made on removal of local officials and the United States said that the three men to town.—Reuters.

Laotian air force leader quits post

Vientiane, May 16.—The commander of the Royal Lao Air Force was pushed out of post today in an anti-revolt by about 1,000 at Vientiane's main air base.

The airman started striding before dawn, for the removal of Brigadier General Bouabong Vongsa, their commander.

They handed out leaflets by accusing the airman of ordering the killing of Pathet Lao areas in the 1973 ceasefire. Hours later Brigadier Vongsa handed in his resignation, yielding one of the remaining positions of in held by the once-powerful rightists.

Diplomatic observers noted further resignations following the anti-revolt. They tightened their grip on the Lao situation.

The main right-wing was broken last weekend resignation of four men the coalition Government have not been replaced.

The Pathet Lao is, however, that it is abiding by the 1973 peace pact in which power Cabinet is delicately between five right-wing Pathet Lao warlords neutralists. But don't believe that any right-wing replacements will non-controversial persons who would offer no re to Pathet Lao policy.

A senior Pathet Lao Mr Kham Seng Keo said today that the 1973 peace pact would be respected. He said that the 1973 peace pact would be respected.

Several small demonstrations against rightists were various parts of Vientiane the day. One was Mahosoth Hospital where demanded the removal head of the pediatric ward. The hospital was accused of abusing its authority as hospital property for purposes.

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Laurel force leader post

TURSDAY MAY 17 1975

THE TIMES
SATURDAY REVIEW

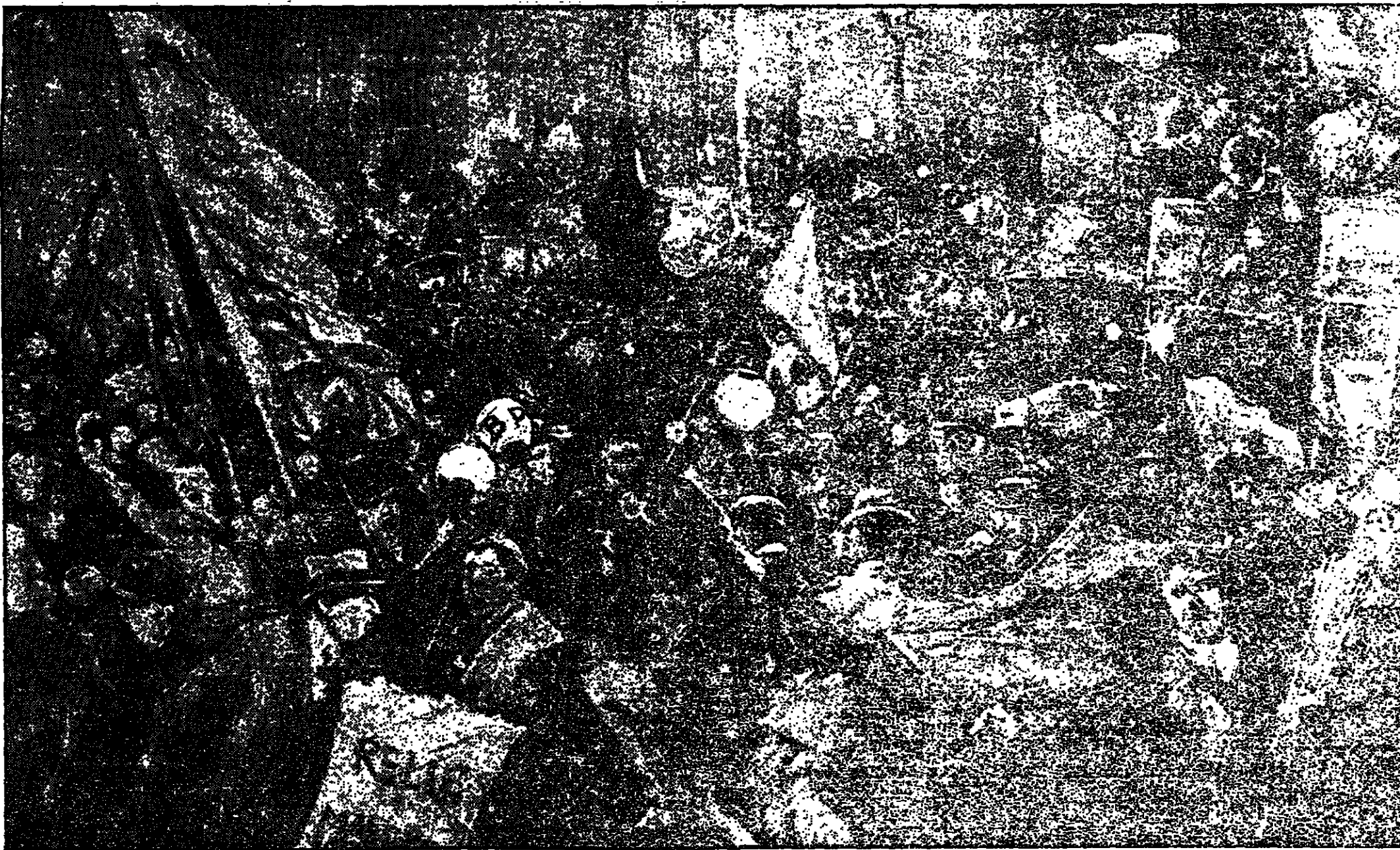
The Mafeking style

by
Jan Morris



The scene in Mafeking as the relief column arrives

The scene in London as the news arrives



any-five years ago today, dictionary tells us, the e of Mafeking went into English language, "treated lary as a gerund or ent participle": Mafick- indulging in extravagant ostentations of exultation, ecstasies of national rejoice. In fact I have never in life seen the word used in hing but a lexicographic ext, and this ironic doublet, this going into a lan- e per se, seems to me a er footnote to the story of siege of Mafeking, one of most popular of the Vic- m epics, which meant at much less and far more its contemporaries sup- d, and which one can now so far away in time, space aspiration, as a less jolly and synonyms, at the end their era, it was pure aph. The humiliating ffs of the Boer War had aled to the world, after ly a century of British emacy, that the Empire not impregnable. "We are interested in the possibi- of defeat", Queen Victoria declared, not surprisingly, age, since the enemy's l population was about of Birmingham's, but still repeated failure of British had profoundly shocked, depressed the nation. eking was an exhilarating pion, start to finish, in- ously defended by the gily (if, to my own taste, fferable) Colonel Baden- all, it had resisted with hu- ous aplomb seven months avestment, and the flow of messages from his garri- had done much to sustain national spirit, and bolster people's pride. Mafeking pluck. Mafeking was sche. Mafeking was British, 75 years ago today, it pro- Mafeking had won.

London has never known scenes of fevered enthu- n as those that greeted the s of Mafeking's relief on 17, 1900. It was a kind of ness. Every class of Lon- r poured rumbustious into streets, and the capital ed into three days and te of carnival. Few people vently found it strange at time. They thought it, as dictionary suggests, no than an extravagant onstration of exultation— gratitude, perhaps. The in of 1900 had been nur- i on heroes and heroines on patriotic derring-do, Jingo and Imperialism: these corporate tastes emotions were satisfied by saga of Mafeking, and to Londoners of the day hysteric festival appeared, l some respects unseemly, ast only natural. day, in wistful retrospect, ems a very different celeb- m, and Baden-Powell's sking, which our forebears as a proud citadel of the t, it for us hardly more a village of lost illusion. is really a village even but a village of peculiar acter. As you drive there Kimberley, and descend from the high veldt dis- r its modest presence clus- l in greenery around its river, it looks at first like another South African : pleasant enough, agree- laid out, but stamped by a liar sameness of church market square, railway n and commercial bustle, ical office in the centre own. African township on outskirts. When you enter purkies of Mafeking, gh, you realize that this is hing different. It is a tier town, a white town on fringe of black Africa, gh whose streets many r characters strut or l, from arty white progres- with novelty shops to icky black politicians with edes.

British times Mafeking the administrative head- ers of the Bechuanaland ecorate, whose border was a few miles away, and se bleak and blasted terri- offered no suitable tion for a festive pro- ul. Today the Resident's and bungalows form the tal of the Tswana banti- one of the African melands" established by South Africa. Bechuanaland is a highly ebullient com- ity, encouraged doubtless he presence so close of the independent Botswana, since the final borders of butswana have yet to be ded, it may well be to be em the whole of Mafeking as the local saying is, "go k". is makes for a certain er in the air. White Mafek- is orthodox South Africa ed, with its standard port- l town hall and its obliga- er with the tables of the Hotel laid for a statu- South African lunch, and regulation South African girls inspecting their uails the Central News Agency. Rhodes stands in effigy ide the railway station, ng sacramentally towards o, and behind him the as from Johannesburg ir away hang about at their forms, sprawled over by in- ant, Africans, or are red here and there ough the twilight by sweat- white railwaymen in as. ut over the tracks the black n is very different all b and shanty, half wild, municipality with wobbly ne of dust marking the tage of bicycles, and drea wide-eyed at rickety den gates. A sense of sup- posed excitement sets the e of the place, and often

groups of significant-looking men sweep by in limousines, or are to be seen converging portentously upon church halls. There is no shape to it. It has no beauty. But it sprays with verve. This then is Mafeking, this sharp little conglomeration of black, white and railway track, and it was not so very different when Baden-Powell and his 1,200 comically assorted defenders held it against the Boers. It was a frontier town then, of excitement but of little importance. The same railway ran through to Bulawayo: the Africans lived in the same township over the tracks; the veldt stretched apparently illi- nable in all directions; the widow-birds sat, then as now, twitching their long tails lugub- rously upon the telegraph wires. But for the British the real meaning of it was its tense and lonely insignifi- cance: a speck on the African map, no more, all alone on the Empire's edge. The siege is only moderately celebrated in Mafeking. One or two of Baden-Powell's defences now, and a few characters of the siege are remembered— Lady Sarah Wilson in her lux-

uriously beflagged dug-out, Benjamin Well, the canny entrepreneur, Lord Edward Cecil, the witliest of all aristocrats, and of course "B-P" himself, the life and soul of it all, devising yet more original ruses, sending schoolmasterly reproaches to the Boer command, playing the fool in Sunday charades, whistling, sketching, telegraphing home a stream of cocky, if not always scrupulously accurate dispatches, and finally, when the great day of deliverance came, riding in glory down Main Street side by side with his reliever, Lord Plumer. There is a small museum of the siege in the Town Hall, with a gun or two, and albums of old photographs, and flags, and letters, and lots of that homely bric-a-brac which the Boer War, more than any other conflict, seems to have inspired in its combatants and spectators—patriotic postcards with velvet ribbons, souvenir flags with gilded knobs, Christmas puds and chocolate boxes sent to her soldiers by the compassionate Queen. They have torn down Dixon's Hotel in Market Square, the main social centre of the siege but Baden-Powell's headquarters

next door is a solicitor's office, and when I called upon its present occupant, Mr Minchin, he said quite casually, as though discussing a colleague: "That's where Baden-Powell always sat, over there in the corner, on a packing case." There are a few people about who actually remember the siege, but their recollections have grown less reliable with the years. Even in Mafeking, where things do not change too fast, and which Baden-Powell and his comrades would easily recognize today—even in Mafeking, 75 years is a long time. The Empire is gone, the world has changed, the Africans seem to prefer German cars. Only one or two devoted local specialists can confidently point out the old lines of defence, and the Chamber of Commerce guide stop does not mention the siege at all. Mafeking's epic days were short, and long ago, and anyway, they Maficked far less boisterously in Market Square than they did in Piccadilly far away. Even by the standards of the time, it was a small affair. The town was small, the forces were small. The Boers did not try to take the town very seri-

ously, the British did not try to break out at all. Though foodstuffs did run short, on the Africans actually starved, and compared with the sweat- ing regiments of Roberts's campaigning armies, or the con- stantly hunted guerrillas of the Boer commandos, Baden-Powell's garrison had an easy time of it. As propaganda, though, the defence of Mafeking had true value. The Boer War was an exhibition war. At the end of the British century, it was the first conflict in which the armies of the immense British Empire, triumphant against many howling primitives, were challenged by white soldiers with modern arms. The world watched enthralled, generally delighted, to see that old Goliath humiliated at last. An astonishing flood of abuse was launched against Britain, her soldiers and her leaders. It was the Vietnam of the day. The satirists of Europe revelled in it; the virulent cartoonists excelled themselves; even the young Picasso, doodling on his pad one day, found himself caricaturing a gallant leader of fat Highlanders, inflexible colonels, and preposterous horseback Bullers.

To the Boers this contemptible projection of the Empire was very important. Not only did they rely upon foreigners for their excellent weapons, and for their access to the sea: it was one of the perennial hopes that if they defied the British long enough, in the end another power would intervene in their behalf, or at least the British would be goaded by world opinion to recognize their independence. The British blundering their way towards fruition in South Africa, were therefore at pains to revive their traditional, by then almost mythical, image: the image of gallant gentlemen and irrepressible Tommies, cheerfulness in adversity, indomitable makeshift, trust in God and the flag, grim, manly endurance. Though to this day it is seldom recognized, in fact the British conduct of the war at large was rich in those very qualities. The common soldier's belief in the justice of his cause was as real, and as moving, as the Boers' dedication to independence. The Boer faith in a debatably Christian God was matched by the British devotion to an

arguably defied Queen. A noble comradeship between officers and men, an un- winking acceptance of misery, a touching devotion even to the most incompetent generals—all these were characteristic of the British armies in the field. But only Mafeking assembled them in miniature, consciously embellished them, and presented them to the world in demonstration. Through the blackest days of gloomy, Mafeking brilliantly kept the old legend alive. It is true that Ladysmith was holed out more seriously, suffered more terribly, and resisted just as bravely, besides being a far more important objective. Mafeking, though, did it all with style, and style, as the Queen's armies lumbered dis- moved and bewildered across the veldt—style at that moment the Empire badly needed.

Wandering through the streets of Mafeking, poking about its old graveyards, watching its brave-bound lionhearted steam away to the Rand I found it easy to imagine the sensations of the siege. If the place in obscurely stimulating now it must have been intoxicating then. The limelight's glare, at which Baden-Powell was all too conscious, shone brilliantly upon the little town. So small, so remote, so suddenly famous, so dominated by the hostile waste lands all around, its sensations of importance must have been overwhelming. Yet it really did not matter much, from a military point of view, whether Mafeking stood or fell. Spion Kop, Colenso, Magersfontein, Paardeberg—those grim battles were reality. Mafeking was only a brilliant illusion—the last illusion, perhaps, in a century of grand imaginings.

Fin-de-siècle had hit the British people silly. A heightened sense, a sudden time, it had seemed a fitting climax to the British hegemony until in a single week, Black Week 1899, the Boer amateurs had defeated the British regular army three battles in a row. Reality had struck, and presently in a succession of tragedies and disillusionments the grand certainties of the Victorian age were to collapse once and for all. Half a century of dazzle ended in doubt. Tremendous concepts of duty and privilege, thrilling exploits of war and exploration, terrific figures of pomp and authority, unimaginable territories, incalculable wealth, the Queen-Empress herself attended by killed Scots and turbaned Hindos—all this, the magic of the imperial idea, tragically lost its mystery.

For it had rested, on fond, on bluff, or at least upon display. That power was half-empty: that wealth was not bottomless: those heroes were all too human: even Victoria herself was not divine at all, but could be lampooned by far-outragers with impunity. For fifty years the British had declared themselves to the world at their own estimation, and by and large the world had believed them: it was Black Week and the Boer War that stripped the spectacle of Empire, and cracked its driving confidence.

Mafeking was a voice from the ampler past. Petty though it was in the scale of the war, peripheral to its importance, still it spoke in the heroic mode. A generation conditioned to the perpetual theatre of Empire found in the news from Mafeking a reassurance after all. B-P's vivid reports breathed some of the glorious eccentricity of Gordon at Khartoum. His hard-pressed garrison, hemmed in by Mausers and 75-pounders, showed just the same indomitable resolution as the heroes of Kerke's Drift, dubbed absurd by assagais. The presence in the town of women and children recalled the tear-jerkers of the Indian Mutiny, and the attendance of patri- cians (on Lord Edward, the Prime Minister's son, Charles FitzClarence, at Maunster, and the Hon. Algernon Lambour- Trace, was a reminder that British Imperialism, now as then, had class.

Just as in adult life a sug- gestion of nursery fire or bed- time story, a forgotten taste of medicine, conjures from the past the comforts of childhood, so in the public mind, person- Mafeking fulfilled a yearning in a world that was topsy- turvy. B-P stood for the news. All around confusion, rage, in defeat and mockery, and (overriding, but far away in that little town on the veldt) familiar priorities pre- vailed. Nor was it only the leftish who cherished this vision. Politicians right and left and lower classes snuff, but there were people in every corner, no least among the Boers them- selves, who responded in the message of Mafeking, in return and recognition perhaps that there had been much good and glory to the world that the British ruled.

But it was only wishing, only a last dream, perhaps the only thing at heart, which is why they grabbed the relief of the town with such over- wrought intensity. The Empire never recovered from the Boer War, before long the Queen actually died, and never again would Kaiser's mourning in redcoats against the Fuzzy Wuzzies, or little Lord Robert ride down to Kandahar. In Mafeking they saw an old pic- ture-postcard of Market Square during the siege. It is a little faded, but full of success on there. Baden-Powell's little more at its blithing-rail, and there is the sandbagged solicitor's office beside it. And perched precariously on the roof, a flat- form, barely visible against a moultingly developed sky, one can just make out the little, another figure of Baden-Powell—emphatically, the old that never-stops, as the Mattheu allegedly loved to call him.

I sat on the square one day with this postcard in my hand and wondered how it would have looked to me on Mr Min- chin's roof. But though I expected to be entertained by the scene, and thought I might portray him, for literary pur- poses, watching the approach- ing relief column 75 years ago today, in the event I found it a disturbing conception. Did he see more, I suddenly found myself wondering, as he whistled on there with his tele- scope? Could he make out one more terrible enemy, darkening beyond the veldt? Did the wolf-thats-nearsleeps delibera- tely foster the illusion of Mafeking, as an historical gag, or a symbol?

I was answered by this un- expected conjuncture, an in- stant's glimpse of the present home with a faint message on the back, walked around the corner to Cecil's, where I treated myself in consolation to a rather less than Mafickal lunch chomp among the silent waiters.

Gardening

Bamboozle the wind

is a strange paradox that if you want peace and quiet in the garden, the best place to go is Ireland—the Republic, that is. There is no traffic on the roads and even the minor road surface is good; the Irish drivers are a bit predictable—they tend to drive without warning, but they drive slowly and are not aggressive on the road. And the quietness! On an evening you can stand at the edge of Lough Corrib and only sound you can hear is that of a man rowing three miles away on the other side of the lake. Nowhere have my wife and I enjoyed so peaceful a relaxing holiday.

The roadsides and parts of the hillsides blaze with gorse in the spring—nowhere have I seen gorse so fine. The mild climate permits the gardeners to grow many trees and shrubs that are too tender for England except in the far west of Scotland. The problem is the provision of shelter, for the Republic of Ireland is windy, and shelter is provided to allow trees and shrubs to flourish themselves.

I was interested to see that bamboo had been used successfully for this purpose and the garden at Muckross, near Killarney, now attained by the state, they created a splendid screen,

filtering the winds that blow right up the garden off the lake. Where the wind had a free run permanently you could see trees bent away from the prevailing wind and young growths "scorched", but in the shelter of quite a small belt of bamboos, not more than 10 feet thick, there was no damage. Young ornamental trees had survived a year or two without even a stake. The bamboos are not too plentiful these days and this is a pity. I think we have been too much carried away by swift growing conifers like *Cupressus portis legendii* as shelter plants. These are fine but they do rather assert themselves in the landscape, and they will grow perhaps disproportionately large. Or they may need annual trimming to keep from growing too tall. Bamboos, however, never look out of place—they blend with any landscape, do not grow too tall and are no trouble.

There are many fine gardens in Ireland, those of Ballyvaughan, Mount Usher, Powerscourt, with Mount Stewart and Rowallan in the north to mention only a few. Information about properties in the care of The National Trust for Northern Ireland can be obtained from The National Trust, Malone House, Barnett Demesne, Belfast BT9 5PU. Northern Ireland. Information about gardens and historic houses in the Republic of Ire-

land, also about hotels and boarding houses, may be obtained from The Irish Tourist Board, 150-151 New Bond Street, London, W1Y 0AQ.

On a recent short visit we were particularly impressed by our reception at the Assolas Country House, Kanturk, Co. Cork, Ballylicky House Hotel, Bantry, Castlehouse Hotel, Killybeggs, and Knockferry Lodge, Knockferry, near Galway. The last is mainly frequented by fishermen, right on the edge of Lough Corrib. Near Galway too is Moran's Oyster Cottage at Kilcolgan, famous for 100 years, where they were dispensing oysters in April at 85p a dozen. There is much to be said for a gentle garden pilgrimage in Ireland, especially if one wishes to combine it with a fishing holiday.

Nearer home, the Chelsea Flower Show opens on Tuesday in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London. Tuesday is reserved for fellows of The Royal Horticultural Society only, and the show is open from 8.30 am to 3 pm. Anyone who wants to become a fellow of the society may do so at the entrance to the show on payment of the annual subscription—£4.50 for one person, £7 for two. Fellowship not only entitles you to admittance to the Chelsea Show on Tuesday, but also on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. In addition

you can visit the society's shows at Westminster, the gardens at Wisley, and receive the society's journal monthly.

Among many other new flowers to be seen at Chelsea is the new yellow scented floribunda rose named "Gardeners' Sunday" by R. Harkness & Co. It is being sold this year in aid of the Gardeners' Sunday Organization which arranges garden openings on behalf of the two gardeners' charities. Full details and an illustration of this rose may be found in *Gardeners' Sunday*, the booklet which lists the gardens open on behalf of the organization. It may be obtained, price 15p at bookstalls or price 25p including postage from The Organizer, White Witches, Claygate Road, Dorking, Surrey.

As I mentioned some weeks ago, when we have been held up in our seed sowing by the weather there is an even greater danger than usual of young seedlings suffering from periods of dry weather. They have vestigial root systems for the first week or so after germination and a short dry spell may mean disaster. I am surprised how few people know of the Melior Water timer—a device which you fit into your hose line and which you can set to turn off your sprinkler after a predetermined amount of water has been applied.

Roy Hay

Chess

Defeating the Great Boy of Belgrade

I can authenticate Mr Michael Goldsmith's story the other day in a letter to this paper about the item on the Yugoslav menu known as "hemendex". He found it at Tilgrad in 1961 but I came across it nine years earlier in an army officers' club at Belgrade.

We (the late C. H. O'D. Alexander and myself) were playing in a big international tournament and had been given the run of the club for the month of June. It was our custom to take our evening meal there. It was a very hot June, so hot that I was told you could fry an egg on the pavement (not that I put this to the proof) but it was only natural that I should turn away from "hemendex" and think longingly of some cold ham.

So, one evening after a tiring session in which I had drawn a game of 102 moves against the Belgian grandmaster O'Kelly de Galway and that after invoking the 50 move rule, I asked the waiter for "hem". He politely replied that there was no "hem" only "hemendex".

Now, having already spent some time in an innsuit hotel in Russia, I knew very well that any attempt to convince the waiter that if he had "hemendex" he must also have "hem" was doomed to failure. The argument would be regarded as a sign of Western frivolity and I ran the risk of being classed as "nie seriosne" (not serious). It was then that I remembered the advice given to me by a friend to deal with the Great Boy of "Go round about" it said and I did likewise. "Bring me", I said in my clearest Serbian, "some hemendex beer". "Bez" is a useful Slavonic word

meaning "without" and, just in case my reader has not cottoned on to what this is all about, "hemendex" is ham and eggs. It worked, I got my ham and very good it was too.

Belgrade 1952 was a tough and interesting tournament. Of the 20 players participating nearly all were either grandmasters or masters and in coming in the middle of the table, Alexander with 9½ and I myself with 9 points, we did not disgrace ourselves. In fact, I marvel at my powers of endurance then, since only a few weeks earlier, I had played in an even stronger event, the Maroczy Memorial Tournament at Budapest.

I was half a point outside the prize list but, in ample recompense, I came equal tenth with two of the most famous chess figures of the previous era, Bogoljuboff and Grunfeld.

Grunfeld, the inventor of the Grunfeld Defence, carried about in his head the most encyclopaedic knowledge of the openings of anybody I ever knew. Indeed, he seemed interested only in the opening stages of the game. Once he had established an even position, or a slightly better than even position out of the opening, he was content with the draw. Hence his score was made up of 16 draws, 2 losses and 1 win (against the tall-end Lob of Switzerland). Before he played him Alexander told me he was determined to get Grunfeld out of the books. So he produced what he thought was a new move and was gratified to see that Grunfeld took half an hour to reply. The game was drawn, and afterwards Alexander said to Grunfeld that he supposed he

had taken so much time because the move was new. "Oh no", said Grunfeld, "I was merely trying to remember exactly how the game finished the last time your move was played."

Another colourful character there was the Swedish grandmaster, Gosta Stoltz. He was a grandmaster at two different boards—chess and drinking—and the slivovitz was much to his taste. One day I was walking with the Yugoslav grandmaster Pirc past a café where we saw Stoltz sitting drunk, obviously after having drunk an untold number of glasses of slivovitz. It was the evening of the day on which I had finally won a game against Stoltz in 97 moves, and Pirc said to me, "Ah well, he has to drink away his sorrow." Somehow or other I was irresistibly reminded of the drunkard who does not know whether he drinks because he is disappointed in love, or is disappointed in love because he drinks.

I give a game I won in that high summer tournament some 22 years ago against the Yugoslav master Puc, a remarkable person who was wont to walk down the street that led to the old Turkish fort by the Danube almost every evening, dressed in a splendid black cloak and a highly dramatic air of secrecy. White—Grunfeld. Black—Puc. G. D. Tarrasch Defence.

An artificial idea to support his centre by an eventual B-B3; it takes too much time and the normal K-Q-B3 is better.

And nor 11. P-QK4, QK-K5; 12. B-K2, P-QR4 when Black has a counter-attack.

13. K-K1, P-QR4; 14. R-K1, P-QR4; 15. R-K1, P-QR4; 16. R-K1, P-QR4; 17. R-K1, P-QR4; 18. R-K1, P-QR4; 19. R-K1, P-QR4; 20. R-K1, P-QR4; 21. R-K1, P-QR4; 22. R-K1, P-QR4; 23. R-K1, P-QR4; 24. R-K1, P-QR4; 25. R-K1, P-QR4; 26. R-K1, P-QR4; 27. R-K1, P-QR4; 28. R-K1, P-QR4; 29. R-K1, P-QR4; 30. R-K1, P-QR4; 31. R-K1, P-QR4; 32. R-K1, P-QR4; 33. R-K1, P-QR4; 34. R-K1, P-QR4; 35. R-K1, P-QR4; 36. R-K1, P-QR4; 37. R-K1, P-QR4; 38. R-K1, P-QR4; 39. R-K1, P-QR4; 40. R-K1, P-QR4; 41. R-K1, P-QR4; 42. R-K1, P-QR4; 43. R-K1, P-QR4; 44. R-K1, P-QR4; 45. R-K1, P-QR4; 46. R-K1, P-QR4; 47. R-K1, P-QR4; 48. R-K1, P-QR4; 49. R-K1, P-QR4; 50. R-K1, P-QR4; 51. R-K1, P-QR4; 52. R-K1, P-QR4; 53. R-K1, P-QR4; 54. R-K1, P-QR4; 55. R-K1, P-QR4; 56. R-K1, P-QR4; 57. R-K1, P-QR4; 58. R-K1, P-QR4; 59. R-K1, P-QR4; 60. R-K1, P-QR4; 61. R-K1, P-QR4; 62. R-K1, P-QR4; 63. R-K1, P-QR4; 64. R-K1, P-QR4; 65. R-K1, P-QR4; 66. R-K1, P-QR4; 67. R-K1, P-QR4; 68. R-K1, P-QR4; 69. R-K1, P-QR4; 70. R-K1, P-QR4; 71. 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Rex Bellamy

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Personal
investment
and finance,
pages 16 and 17

Building societies exceed forecast with a record net inflow of £406m

By Margaret Stone
A widely expected to be a good month for building societies, has beaten all predictions. Despite inflation and a negative interest rate, investors deposited nearly £1,000m with building societies last month. Gross receipts amounted to £912m compared with £688m in March, and at the net level receipts were an all-time record of £406m compared with the previous peak of £374m the month before.

Although societies are maintaining a very high liquidity level, in the order of 19 per cent, their increased lending capacity is reflected by advances in April of £281m (£349m in March) and even more so in new commitments £72m higher at £466m.

The huge inflow of funds is, in the words of Mr Leonard Boyle, outgoing chairman of the Building Societies Association, peaking at the annual meeting in Torquay earlier in the week, because investors "in these uncertain days give first priority to safety, security and availability".

Despite the overflowing offers—leading to criticism that the societies are not lending

enough at the moment—there are fears within the movement that its fortunes could turn down again in the near future. An immediate worry is the introduction of the Government's index-linked savings schemes in June and July. This coincides with the cut in the interest rate from 7.5 per cent to 7 per cent, which takes effect from June 1. Longer term, the societies are also unsure of the future trend of interest rates.

During April the societies paid off the bulk of the outstanding debt from the £300m made available to them by the Government between May and September of last year. There remains only £50m due to be repaid this month.

Although mortgage demand is running at such a high level, and despite record advances, the societies are still having to operate on a quota system. Nor is there much evidence to suggest that house prices are starting to rise rapidly as a result of so much money being pumped into the system. Demand in relation to the actual supply of houses is still judged as slack.

New hand at the helm, page 16

Hambros shares rally on report of Reksten deal

By Adrienne Gleeson
After reports that agreement had been reached for the large-scale repayment of borrowings made to Mr Einar Reksten, the Norwegian shipowner, by banks in this country, the shares of Hambros yesterday closed 25p higher at 165p.

But a spokesman for the group, which has traditionally been heavily involved in the provision of finance for Scandinavian shipowners, and which has particular connections with Mr Reksten, yesterday denied any knowledge of such an agreement.

That Hambros has approached the Norwegian Government, as well as other parties likely to be affected by the present problems of the Scandinavian tanker owners, was confirmed by diplomatic sources.

The group is trying to reach agreement on common action to limit the extent of the potential financial damage in a situation in which bankers, shipowners and shipbuilders are all at risk. The Norwegian Government is also involved because of the implications for employment in the industry in large-scale tanker cancellations.

There has, however, been no official confirmation of reports in the Norwegian popular press that the Bank of Norway would step in to guarantee the loans made by British banks to Norwegian shipowners.



Mr Scanlon: His appointment will cause concern to directors.

Mr Scanlon appointed to NVT board

By Edward Townsend
Mr W. W. Scanlon, Secretary of State for Industry, yesterday announced the surprise appointment of Mr Hugh Scanlon, president of the Engineering Union, to the board of the National Vehicle and Transport (NVT) cycle company.

It is the first time that a leading trade unionist has become a member of the board of a Government-backed company and is bound to cause concern among NVT directors.

Although it is usual for such appointments to be agreed informally before being publicly announced, the Department of Industry simply said yesterday that Mr Dennis Poole, the NVT chairman, "has been notified". Mr Poole and Mr Scanlon are known to have discussed it.

In a brief statement last night, NVT said that the proposed appointment would be the agenda of a board meeting next Thursday.

The appointment has been made under the terms of the deal which set up NVT in July 1973, with £4.8 million of state aid and fully guaranteed by the Government. The new company brought together the motor cycle interests of the BSA company and the then Department of Trade and Industry was given the right to appoint a director.

Two months later the new company announced closure of the Triumph plant, Meriden, which sparked off the struggle by workers to set up a co-operative. The workers accused Mr Poole of blocking the co-operative which was receiving Mr Poole's personal support.

The NVT directors may now see the appointment of Mr Scanlon as a move by Mr Poole to ensure that workers' views are fully represented.

Dunlop pay settlement paves way for recall of 16,500 at Leyland

By R. W. Shakespeare
British Leyland, which has lost output of more than 20,000 vehicles worth well over £500m during the past three weeks because assembly lines producing eight different models have been halted, will start to recall 16,500 laid-off workers from Monday morning. The company hopes all assembly lines will be back in full production by mid-week.

The move has been made possible because 700 Dunlop clerical workers, whose pay dispute closed five component factories in Coventry, decided yesterday to accept new settlement terms.

Meanwhile, however, Chrysler car production in Britain came to a standstill last night because of the pay strike by 4,000 workers at the central engines plant at Stoke (Coventry).

The Dunlop strikers voted by an overwhelming majority at a mass meeting to accept a new pay structure thrashed out at talks with union officials during the week.

The terms that they accepted will give men increases of between 7.35 to 8.51 per cent, with a further 1 per cent increase from March 1 with further increases giving all male workers a minimum rise of 2.5 per cent over the year.

Women clerical workers will get a 7 per cent increase back dated to March 1, a further 11 per cent from June 1 and more increases from November 1—two months ahead of the deadline for equal pay. By November the rises for women over the year will range from 19.51 to 22.72.

British Leyland has been hit for the worst by the Dunlop strike, as the Coventry factories produce suspension units for many of its cars.

Last night a British Leyland spokesman said: "There will be a planned return of all our workers at present laid off, starting from Monday morning and we hope that by Wednesday the end of the week all the 700 Dunlop workers had to be laid off yesterday at the Linwood, Renfrewshire, assembly plant, where some 3,000 are now idle and all production is stopped. Output was already halted at the Reton assembly plant and 4,000 workers laid off.

The trouble centres on the strike at Stoke. The men have demanded an immediate cash offer of at least £8 a week ahead of the main pay negotiations due at the end of next month, in which the demand will be for a £15 a week increase. Chrysler management has offered to put new pay proposals on the table by May 25 if there is a return to work. The shutdown has again caused speculation about the

whole future of the Chrysler's British operations, which last year showed an £18m trading loss. The stoppage also put at risk the company's main contract in Britain, which is with Iran. It involves the manufacture of parts for 150,000 vehicles to be assembled in Iran, the balance of 10,000 completed Avenger cars (about half of them have been made already) and another 10,000 Avengers in "knockdown" form.

Claim accepted: British Leyland has accepted the proposal by an independent inquiry that the 250 Coventry engine tuners, who were on strike for a month in January over a claim for skilled status, should be in a special category of production workers.

There are to be talks at Coventry to see how the recommendations of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service Inquiry can be implemented.

The recommendations opened the way to a two or three-tier wage structure for production workers in the Coventry factories. This is likely to be resisted by the Transport and General Workers' Union, which represents most of the 9,000 line workers.

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, which made the strike official, now accepts Leyland's adoption of the inquiry's main recommendation.

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Switzerland reduces bank rate to 4.5 pc

Switzerland yesterday cut bank rate to 4.5 per cent from 5 per cent, it was announced in Zurich.

The National Bank said that in view of the Swiss franc exchange rate it considered an increase in the interest rate differential compared with abroad as opportune. The rate cut should also make it easier for the banks to lower their interest rates for credits to the domestic and export industry.

Further improvement by equities
The last day of the equity market trading account brought a further rise in share prices, mostly on bear closing. Turnover remained thin. Gilt also improved with the help of an unchanged minimum lending rate.

The FT index gained 6.1 to 341.8. The rise of the past two sessions, in response to the recovery in sterling, represents most of the gain in the equity market over the week. The fortnight-long account has seen equities rise by 3.5 per cent. Investor's week, page 17

15 price rises refused
Fifteen price rise applications were rejected by the Price Commission during April, bringing the total number since Phase Four began to 115. In addition, 365 price rises have been reduced by the commission since Phase Four started. 133 of them in April. During the month 11 companies made price reductions worth £1.7m in order to bring their profits back within allowable margins, while 33 companies withdrew price applications, bringing the total since Phase Four began to 115.

Dearer aluminium
British Aluminium Co is increasing prices of primary aluminium ingot and related products by an average of 3.92 per cent. There is also to be an average rise in the cost of semi-fabricated products of 10.46 per cent. The higher prices apply to new orders and to all deliveries from June 2.

Vauxhall boost
Vauxhall's new Chevette—introduced on May 2—has already boosted the company's profits. Vauxhall's new car registrations, Vauxhall had taken a lowly average of 6.3 per cent share of the market in the first four months of the year. This month it is running at more than 9 per cent.

Newsprint to be short
There was likely to be a newsprint shortage in two years' time because of lack of current investment by manufacturers in new plant and machinery, Mr C. E. Popham, vice-chairman of Bowater Corporation, said after yesterday's annual meeting.

TWA £6m April loss
Trans World Airlines reported a loss in April of \$13.8m (about £6m), which was up sharply from a loss a year earlier of \$3.6m. It was announced in New York. TWA's April revenues totalled \$130.6m compared with \$140.27m a year earlier.

BP abandons drilling on two N Sea wells

By Peter Hill
British Petroleum has abandoned two wildcat exploration wells in the North Sea drilled at a total cost of £4.3m. The company announced last night that it had plugged the two wells on blocks 15/20 and 20/21.

The rig Sudeo E drilled a hole on block 15/20 after "first well drilled on the luck in March yielded only non-commercial shows of oil. The rig is now to drill an appraisal well on the Magnus field on block 21/12.

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New moves by Burmah action group

By Our Financial Staff
Burmah Shareholders' Action Group is planning to hold a meeting one hour before the annual meeting of Burmah Oil in Glasgow on June 6 to urge the rejection of the company's 1974 accounts.

The group is seeking rejection on the grounds that the passing of the accounts to receive and adopt the accounts would be tantamount to acquiescence in the disposal of the company's holding in British Petroleum.

Since it was formed at the beginning of last month, the action group has been pressing for renegotiation of the terms under which Burmah's holding in BP was sold by the Bank of England.

Institutional shareholders in the company have also formed a committee to urge the same point, but earlier this month disclosed that they had failed to secure any concessions from Mr Jasper Holt, deputy Governor of the Bank of England, or from Mr Edmund Dell, the Paymaster General.

The Shareholders' Action Group says it is undismayed, and intends to pursue its own course with increasing vigour. It says it has already received over 400 letters of support and is seeking proxies to oppose the passing of the accounts as well as new donations towards its fighting funds.

Costliest Ferranti solution chosen, Mr Heseltine says

Mr Michael Heseltine, the Tory spokesman on industry, said yesterday that the Government had chosen the most expensive solution to Ferranti's financial problems.

Mr Heseltine, in Manchester to study the North-West's problems, said the Government had made it clear that its main purpose was to get a large share of the market for the region's products.

The real problem centres on the transformer company of Ferranti, and the Government has given an undertaking to remove that financial burden during the next financial or three years, he said.

"If they had done that now and proceeded with a rationalisation of the transformer industry in this country, which is a real industrial need, then there would have been no need for the taxpayer to contribute £15m."

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RETAIL PRICES			
The following are the index numbers (January 1974 = 100) for retail prices not seasonally adjusted, released by the Department of Employment yesterday:			
	1974	1973	% chg
March 1974	102.6	102.6	16.8
April 1974	102.7	102.7	17.0
May 1974	102.7	102.7	17.1
June 1974	102.7	102.7	17.2
July 1974	102.7	102.7	17.3
Aug 1974	102.7	102.7	17.4
Sept 1974	102.7	102.7	17.5
Oct 1974	102.7	102.7	17.6
Nov 1974	102.7	102.7	17.7
Dec 1974	102.7	102.7	17.8
1975			
Jan 1975	102.7	102.7	17.9
Feb 1975	102.7	102.7	18.0
Mar 1975	102.7	102.7	18.1
Apr 1975	102.7	102.7	18.2

GDP			
Gross domestic product at constant factor cost (1970=100) and seasonally adjusted:			
	1974	1973	% chg
1974	104.3	104.3	104.1
1973	103.8	103.8	103.6
1972	103.3	103.3	103.1
1971	102.8	102.8	102.6
1970	102.3	102.3	102.1
1969	101.8	101.8	101.6
1968	101.3	101.3	101.1
1967	100.8	100.8	100.6
1966	100.3	100.3	100.1
1965	99.8	99.8	99.6
1964	99.3	99.3	99.1
1963	98.8	98.8	98.6
1962	98.3	98.3	98.1
1961	97.8	97.8	97.6
1960	97.3	97.3	97.1
1959	96.8	96.8	96.6
1958	96.3	96.3	96.1
1957	95.8	95.8	95.6
1956	95.3	95.3	95.1
1955	94.8	94.8	94.6
1954	94.3	94.3	94.1
1953	93.8	93.8	93.6
1952	93.3	93.3	93.1
1951	92.8	92.8	92.6
1950	92.3	92.3	92.1

How the markets moved

Rises			
Barclays 5k	2p to 2.5p	Heseltine	11p to 8.5p
Brit & Comm	12p to 12.5p	Philips Ind	2p to 2.5p
Boat	12p to 12.5p	P & O Ind	2p to 2.5p
Courtauld	4p to 4.5p	Shell	2p to 2.5p
Crutcher	7p to 7.5p	Sun Alliance	2p to 2.5p
GKN	11p to 11.5p	Unilever	2p to 2.5p
Hambros	25p to 26p	Woolworth	4p to 4.5p
Falls			
Asa Port Comm	11p to 10.5p	Polly Peck	1p to 0.5p
Brit Am Tob	3p to 2.5p	Philips Ind	2p to 1.5p
Brit Am Tob	3p to 2.5p	P & O Ind	2p to 1.5p
Brit Am Tob	3p to 2.5p	Shell	2p to 1.5p
Brit Am Tob	3p to 2.5p	Sun Alliance	2p to 1.5p
Brit Am Tob	3p to 2.5p	Unilever	2p to 1.5p
Brit Am Tob	3p to 2.5p	Woolworth	4p to 3.5p
Equities ended the account			
Higher, engaged securities market			
Sterling closed at £2.3025, 11p up. The effective devaluation rate was 24.9 per cent.			
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THE POUND

Bank	Bank
Australia 5	7.22
Austria 5	7.22
Belgium 5	7.22
Canada 5	7.22
Denmark 5	7.22
France 5	7.22
Germany 5	7.22
Greece 5	7.22
Hong Kong 5	7.22
India 5	7.22
Japan 5	7.22
Netherlands 5	7.22
Norway 5	7.22
Portugal 5	7.22
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Sweden 5	7.22
Switzerland 5	7.22
Taiwan 5	7.22
Yugoslavia 5	7.22

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Grouse

The Policyholders Protection Bill is wending its contentious way through Parliament. The main point of discussion is whether or not insurance companies as well as their policyholders should be rescued under the provisions of the Bill. The Government says, yes, they should; the bulk of the insurance industry violently disagrees.

The protagonists of the view that companies should be allowed to go to the wall wish only to be concerned with the welfare of policyholders. But what is not being made as clear as it should be is that it is policyholders as well who will suffer if a company is allowed to fold. It is not possible to hold an insurance contract with a non-existent company.

The implications of a broken contract could be severe for three types of policyholders. First, there is the person whose health has deteriorated since he took out the original contract: he will find it difficult to buy a replacement contract on similar terms from another company.

Secondly, there is the long-term holder of a qualifying policy (ie, enjoying tax relief on the premiums) who has planned for the maturity of his policy at a specific date to meet certain

financial obligations. If, after five years, that contract is effectively voided, he will not be able to arrange another qualifying policy to mature at the necessary date.

Thirdly, there is the holder of a type of policy which has in the meantime been legislated out of existence—examples are the family bond schemes with friendly societies and indeed, in its original form, the income bond itself. The policyholder will never be able to replace his lost contract, although this is perhaps the least defensible case of the three.

On the other hand, the insurance industry's view that the Policyholders Protection Bill will give carte blanche for every disreputable company to flood the market with unsound policies has force and should be accommodated.

It is not too late to arrange some kind of compromise which would satisfy the insurance industry's view that some penalties should be imposed both upon the companies and imprudent policyholders, yet which would still preserve the identity of the company and the contract. Policyholders in any of the three categories mentioned would almost certainly agree that the advantages in maintaining the contract would more than offset any statutory imposed reduction of benefits.

Building societies

New hand at the home loans helm

Raymond Potter, chairman of the huge Halifax Building Society, became chairman of the Building Societies Association on Thursday in succession to Leonard Boyle. No one could have had a worse task than Mr Boyle in steering the societies through a mixture of feast and famine of mortgage funds and intense government interference; but Mr Potter will have some pretty peculiar problems to deal with, too, during his two-year term of office.

He has been installed at a time when the societies are in the midst of a variety of conflicting situations. At a time of a record inflow of funds, mortgage rationing is as harsh as it ever was during the previous slowdown in receipts. At the same time the societies are deliberately building up their liquidity level, while at the same time the need to stimulate the private house-building sector.

There are other untoward elements in the present situation which give added piquancy to the basic relationship between the societies and the state. After borrowing £500m from the Government last year, the societies are now contemplating lending £100m through the Government's own public expenditure; and, after years of the building societies upstaging the National Savings' apple cart, it suddenly seems as though National Savings could start running rings around the

societies or, for that matter, by any other savings institution.

When the Government first indicated that it was going to run two experimental index-linked savings schemes, the building societies professed to be unmoved by the news. As D-day approaches for the two plans—June 2 for the retirement bonds and July 1 for the Save As You Earn replacement—the building societies have changed their tune.

They have every right to be worried about the competitive threat of the new savings schemes. Take the certificates for men and women over 65 and 60 years respectively. The maximum investment may only be £500, but the low level of the composite rate of tax paid by societies testifies that there are very many nil or low-rate taxpayers investing in societies.

Many of these must be pensioners who should be advised to switch their allegiance immediately.

The SAYE scheme is potentially more dangerous to building society receipts. The upper limit of £20 a month is quite generous and it should prove a very strong competitor to the society's own subscription shares, not to mention the conventional SAYE schemes which societies will still be permitted to sell.

With inflation running at its present levels, a SAYE contract is going to provide a 20-25 per cent return, unmatchable by the

societies or, for that matter, by any other savings institution.

For the while, the near £1,000m which investors deposited with building societies last month may be a reflection of the public's need for security, safety and availability, it is also an indication that there is at present no outstanding alternative to the building societies, despite the negative rate of interest in terms of inflation which they offer. Index-linked SAYE could change all that.

It is partly fears such as these that have led the societies building up their liquidity levels to provide an ad hoc stabilization fund. If money flows into alternative investments and interest rates turn upwards elsewhere the societies want to be able to lead at a fairly constant level, by then using up some of their surplus funds.

The corollary of this philosophy is that credit is restricted at a time of plenty in order to provide funds during the shortages.

It is an argument which does not appeal to everyone. Many people believe that lending should be in relation to the level of funds and that the market place will determine the price of houses.

Mr Potter does not share this view. He does not like the memories of the house price spiral in 1971-73 and believes that the artificial restriction of credit can prevent house prices running too far ahead. "We



Mr Raymond Potter, new chairman of the Building Societies Association.

intend to do everything we can to prevent a sudden explosion in house prices", he said.

This is a view, of course, that he shares with the Government which, along with building society leaders, participates in the Joint Advisory Committee. This watches the trend of house prices as one of its major briefs. The JAC is one of the outward and visible signs of a harmonious relationship which sometimes exists between soci-

eties and the state. So the relationship is stormy. Mr Potter takes a view about the prospects for more state intervention in building societies. As one of the biggest building societies in the world perhaps he is more detached in his view of the state and the now cooperative well.

However, the fact is that at the moment societies' interests and the Government tend to coincide, and the societies are seen to be willing, a helping hand to the Government in making good the shortfall in local authority loan lending.

What will happen, when the interests of the societies diverge is a matter. This Government shown little reluctance to an interventionist policy past and presumably would to do so again. And as the state intervenes societies' affairs the ease it comes for it to be a little longer. It will be Mr Potter's job to ensure that familiarity with Whitehall to mention the weight of society within the ment, will help; but it may not be an easy or

Margaret S

Will you, won't you...?

The takeover struggle for Great Britain Ltd by the multinational group, EEC Holdings, is now moving inexorably towards its final stages. The bid, which is on a nine-for-one basis, is strongly contested by a vocal minority, mostly drawn from the smaller shareholders—who are however claiming an increasing response.

The much publicized boardroom split leaves the managing director with the support of only two thirds of his closest colleagues, but his recommendation for acceptance is also backed by most of the previous board who were voted out of office at an extraordinary general meeting last year.

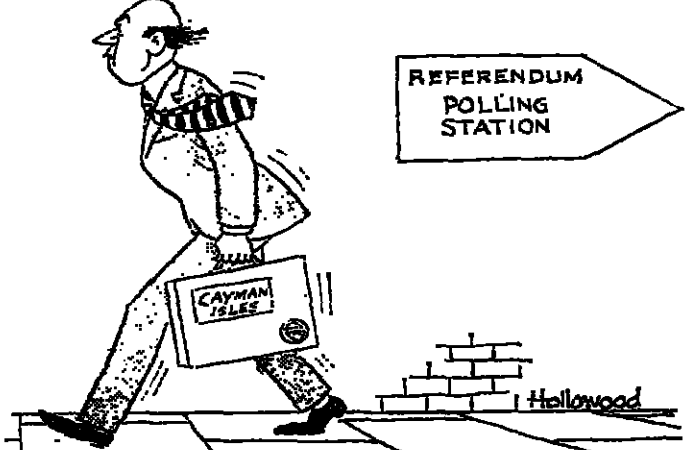
The chairman, or rather the chairperson, of the company is wisely keeping well away from the battlefield, it being essential to have somebody left with an untarnished reputation after it is all over.

The terms of the merger proposed are complex, and indeed largely incomprehensible. This makes evaluation extremely difficult for the unhappy shareholders, so the rival factions are concentrating on seeing who can shout loudest rather than explaining anything with any degree of clarity.

At the moment it looks as if the bid is more likely than not to succeed. This is largely for the negative reason that the record of the company has been so lamentable over the years, underperforming the Smithson index by well over 25 per cent, that shareholders may feel safer in a group with a more trustworthy growth history—albeit a rather ponderous management style.

One fact that may weigh against the success of the bid is that the company's subsidiaries in Scotland and Wales are not likely to work too happily under the new management, although it must be admitted that they have not been particularly enamoured of their present head office recently either.

As it happens, a large proportion of the company's assets are under the local control of these subsidiaries, and there has even been some wild talk of a rival



"... unless the shareholder feels like pulling out altogether."

bid by them on a reverse takeover basis. As for the Northern Ireland branch, the less said about that the better.

Those who are resisting the bid stress the possibility of further calls on shares in the future, and underline the inevitable loss of shareholder control in the new enlarged group.

The directors in charge of production, personnel, and welfare are the foremost of those who hold this view. The managing director can, however, rely on the support of the export sales director, the administration director, and most important of all the financial director, who has recently been taking some stringent measures to contain the situation.

Not a moment too soon, either, as a recent statement reveals that bank loans are at an unprecedentedly high level, the company having been trading at a big loss for many years. Furthermore, its assets seem to be seriously overvalued and in certain instances it is clear that prudent accounting principles have not been followed at all.

Moreover the labour force is extremely truculent, and the quality of the goods produced has by no means always come up to standard, while middle management is burdened down with frustration at the lack of direction from the top. It can

not in any way be said to be a happy ship, and the general attitude of the crew can be summed up in the heart-felt cry: "For God's sake stop mucking us about!"

The financial director's recent measures have nevertheless put some temporary life into what has till now been an extremely nervous market for the shares, with a certain amount of short selling from some quarters. There cannot be any accusations of insider trading, but this is deemed fairly unlikely since the adverse facts about the company are so well known. It cannot be denied that some form of bear raid has been going on, and is likely to continue.

In these circumstances it is not easy to advise what should be the proper course on June 5. On balance it must be that acceptance of the bid, which unfortunately has no cash alternative, cannot put the shareholder in much worse a position than he is already and could even be expected to improve it over the long term.

Acceptance is therefore recommended, unless the shareholder feels like selling out together and switching into some other medium such as Grand Cayman Consolidated, Bermuda Incorporated, Lichtenstein Amalgamated or Direct Spanish Assets.

Francis Kinsman

Insurance

Buying the right to more life cover

It is easy to adopt a defeatist attitude and to say that there is no point in saving or taking out life assurance, because inflation will make it all valueless in a few years' time.

Of course, that could happen; in which event we shall all be in trouble. And those who did not put money away in traditional ways will not be much better off than anybody else, unless they have been very clever indeed.

If, however, one takes the view that life will go on in a similar way, with a just-bare rate of inflation, clearly some plans need to be made.

In the past the life assurance industry has put a lot of stress on the investment side of its activities. Now, a number of companies are pointing out that, while there are other forms of investment, nothing else can provide funds at death in the way of a life cover.

The introduction of capital transfer tax is likely to make life cover even more important. Whereas estate duty could be avoided, capital transfer tax (apart from the various exemptions) has to be paid and life assurance is one of the best ways of funding it, especially as the statutory relief of income tax can be claimed on the premiums.

Many of the problems raised by inflation is that while one can arrange what appears

to be the right amount of cover now there is no means of forecasting how much may be needed in the future. After all, as the value of assets increases due to inflation, capital transfer tax increases at a faster pace.

Perhaps, in due course, the burden of capital transfer tax will be eased to take some account of inflation, but one cannot count on that.

So what is needed is not only life cover now, but also the opportunity to buy more in the future. Of course, it is likely to be more expensive in the future (simply because one will be that much older). But what is not always appreciated is that the life cover needed in the future may not be available or, at least, at an unusually high premium.

For a life office to give cover and charge its standard rate of premium one has to be in good health. Where a relatively large amount is being insured the company may ask one to undergo a medical examination (at its expense) to make sure that the scales are not loaded against it in some way.

If, therefore, life cover was arranged some years ago and more is needed now, it is quite possible that owing to deterioration in health the life office might refuse to provide cover on normal terms. In an extreme

case, just when it is most needed, it might be impossible to buy this type of protection at any price.

There is a simple way round this difficulty. When a policy is arranged in the first place one should also buy the right to take out further cover in the future at standard rates of premium, irrespective of one's health at the time.

This is sometimes referred to as "guaranteed insurability" which is a good description. With each premium you are paying for the right to take out further life cover on normal terms.

Clearly, this option has to be paid for, since it is likely to be exercised by many of those whose health deteriorates. Normally, the option gives you the right to take out further stipulated types of cover at the rate for a first-class life of your sex and age at the time. Although there have been one or two exceptions, life offices do not normally guarantee in advance the actual rate of premium which they will charge when a fresh policy is taken out.

There are some who feel that life offices may not be charging enough for these options. That, of course, is up to them and there is no reason for not buying this kind of option from a well-run company.

Presumably the life offices feel that options of this kind will bring them an appreciable amount of bread-and-butter business in the future without much having to be paid out in terms of acquisition costs.

Normally an option which is bought applies only to further life cover arranged at certain dates or before one reaches a certain age. And, as might be expected, there is a limit on the amount of extra cover which can be bought as a result of exercising an option.

Much the same principle applies to convertible policies. They may start off as term assurances, with the right to convert into, say, whole life or endowment assurance, and the option may be given to arrange further cover in the future.

The sole reason for paying for an option in the first place is that if you should suffer a deterioration in health you will still be able to arrange life cover on normal terms. If your health does not deteriorate and you have to arrange further cover, it may not pay you to exercise your option, even though you will have been paying for it for a number of years. The company with which you were insured may have been the best for you at the time, but it is quite possible that another will now

offer you better terms—own merits.

This has the advantage you may not only obtain value for money but a the existing option can be used on some future when it may be required.

All of us hope that we never be told by a doctor we may have only a few more years to live. But in such a case, even a small extra life cover which can be bought as a result of exercising an option.

Since this type of option can be so valuable, it is important to make sure that you have enough cover available in order to incur amount available for dependants.

In effect "guaranteed insurability" is a form of life insurance. One hopes that one will be able to buy further life in the normal way. But, useful to know that, serious health problem life cover will be available to the limits of the option whatever are the premium rates in force.

John Drum

Unit trust performance

UNIT TRUSTS: Growth and specialist funds (progress this year and the past three years). Unitholder index: 1,353.9; rise from January 1, 1975: 57.8%.

Average change offer to bid, income included, over past 12 months: +7.4%; over 3 years: -23.9%.

GROWTH	A	B	C	D
Drayton Growth	44.9	4.3	—	—
Union Prof M	34.5	—	—	—
Drayton Capital	30.1	—	—	—
First Nat Growth	30.1	—	—	—
National West Cap	26.5	—	—	—
Slater Walker Prof	23.8	—	—	—
Slater Walker Status	22.1	—	—	—
Slater Walker Cap	21.7	—	—	—
CT Capital	21.7	—	—	—
Abacus Growth	21.0	—	—	—
Stockholders F	20.8	—	—	—
Reliance Opportunity	19.3	—	—	—
Oceanic Performance	19.1	—	—	—
Stratton F	15.7	—	—	—
Morgan Gren Ins	14.8	—	—	—
Union Growth	14.7	—	—	—
Vanguard Growth	14.0	—	—	—
British Life Cap	13.5	—	—	—
Morgan Gren Capital	12.9	—	—	—
Abacus Capital	12.8	—	—	—
P & M Growth	12.3	—	—	—

Target Claymore F	0.0	-32.4
G & P Cony Gro	0.9	-20.8
New Court Small Cos	-0.2	—
Hambro Smaller Sec	-0.4	—
New Court Equity	-1.1	-35.3
M & G Recovery	-1.9	-20.2
Target Growth	-1.9	-43.5
Bridge Talisman Cap	-3.0	-36.4
Crescent Growth	-3.3	-35.8
Hambro Smaller Co's	-6.6	-46.6
M & G Magnum	-8.2	-7.6
Jacot Compound	-9.1	-29.4
Frederic Performance	-9.9	-43.8
M & G Special	-12.1	-29.6
Portfolio Capital	-12.5	-61.9
Coyne Growth	-29.4	-51.6
SPECIALIST	—	—
CT Japan & Gen	56.1	—
Hill Samuel Fin	49.5	-0.4
CT US & General	24.0	—
Drayton Investment	21.7	8.1
Hill Samuel Dollar	31.5	2.2
Oceanic Financial	30.5	-30.0
Henderson European	30.0	21.0
Target Investment	29.1	-22.9
Henderson Far East	29.1	—
Charterhouse Fin	27.8	—
Security Fund	26.7	—
National West Fin	26.3	-18.5
London Wall Int	26.1	-14.4

The Edinburgh Investment Trust Limited

Results for the year ended 31 March 1975

	1974	1975
Gross Revenue	£3,002,725	£2,996,730
Earnings per deferred stock unit (£1)	£5.12p	£5.30p
Dividend per deferred stock unit (£1)	£4.85p	£4.75p
Net assets being total assets less current liabilities	£59,107,958	£56,200,604
Asset value per deferred stock unit (£1) after deduction of prior charges at market value	192p	188.5p

EXTRACTS FROM STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN, Mr I. R. GUILD

● There has been a modest increase in gross revenue stemming mainly from money on deposit and overseas holdings which attract corporation tax and, as a result, the net earnings show a small decline. It is hoped to maintain the dividend in the current year.

● Your board believe that the U.S. economy will begin to pick up towards the end of 1975 and in this belief, they have arranged a new dollar loan of \$5.0m to take advantage of such expected

recovery. The loan has now been fully drawn down and invested.

● Your directors see no reason at present for altering their policy of maintaining a large part of the company's funds in overseas investments but will be quick to alter course if a country's economy shows signs of stagnating or greater investment opportunities reveal themselves elsewhere.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, 9 June 1975.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts may be obtained from The Secretary, The Edinburgh Investment Trust Limited, 3 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4DS.

Capital transfer tax

Useful savings on small gifts

We saw last week that husband and wife can make gifts to each other with complete freedom from the capital transfer tax. There are other exemptions, some substantial, some much more modest.

It is the latter, smaller, exemptions that I want to discuss this week because these will affect most people. Despite the modesty of the exemptions, a useful tax saving can be made over the years if full advantage is taken of them.

It is worth noting at the outset that each exemption is independent of the other and each can be claimed by both husband and wife. They are available for lifetime gifts only and cannot be claimed on death.

The first £1,000 of gifts made in every tax year, that is from April 6 in one year to April 5 in the next, is exempt. There is a bonus for the early days of the tax year. For example, if £1,000 is given on March 27, 1974, to April 5, 1974, is treated as a year, which means that the first £1,000 of gifts made in that short period is exempt.

If in any year an individual gives less than £1,000 the amount unused can be carried forward and be given away in the next year. This carry forward is for one year only.

Supposing that no gifts are made in the 10 days to April 5, 1974 (deemed to be a year) but £5,000 is gifted in the next tax year to April 5, 1975, £2,000 of the gift would be exempt, £1,000 for 1974-75 and the other £1,000 for 1975-76. However, the £1,000 exemption can be claimed in addition, reducing the chargeable transfer to £2,500. And, of course, no tax is payable on the chargeable transfer until the figure builds up to over £10,000.

As the £1,000 and the £100 exemptions apply independently of each other it means that a gift of £1,100 made to one person during the tax year is totally exempt.

Gifts up to certain limits can be made to those about to get married, free of the tax. The limits depend on the relationship of donor to bride and groom and any excess over the limit is taxable. Each parent can give £5,000; each grandparent £2,500 and others £1,000. These limits apply to each marriage, so those with large families can make large tax savings here.

The betrothed couple can also enter a pre-wedding gift of up to £2,500 without being charged to the tax. Of course after marriage there is no limit as gifts between husband and wife are totally exempt.

The gifts must be made before the marriage and in contemplation of it. If the marriage does not take place the exemption is lost.

An exemption which cannot be quantified because it depends on the donor's level of income and standard of living is commonly referred to as the "normal expenditure rule". The gifts must be for the regular use of the donor as part of normal expenditure. In such a case, if they are paid out of

income and taking one year with another the donor is left with sufficient income to maintain his (or her) usual standard of living they are exempt.

In measuring income the capital portion of a life annuity purchased after November 12, 1975 (the Act which houses the capital transfer tax legislation) as an afterthought is outright gifts up to £100 for each donee.

Any number of these small gifts can be made in each tax year, but there is no carry forward for one year as with the £1,000 exemption.

From the way the small print reads it appears that if a gift exceeds £100 it is the excess which is taxable. For example, if £800 is gifted to each of five individuals during the tax year, it would seem that out of the total £4,000 the first £100 of each is exempt, leaving £3,900. However, the £1,000 exemption can be claimed in addition, reducing the chargeable transfer to £2,500. And, of course, no tax is payable on the chargeable transfer until the figure builds up to over £10,000.

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 \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

Commodities

1934 PRICES. 1934-35. 11-day averages
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Cricket



Richards plays an innings likened to masterpiece

Fifty-one runs were scored before the first wicket fell. Greenidge was then out through a fine diving catch at square leg. The bowler was Armstrong. Since Nash and Cordle had failed to break through, Majid put on with Armstrong and Davis, speed and slow off breaks. It was a brave piece of captaincy, it had to be done then or not at all and it might have come off. The sister point for Glamorgan was that

formed by the umpires that he did not want to be in his ball, if he wanted it. He did not want to be in his ball, if he wanted it. He did not want to be in his ball, if he wanted it.

Not that it mattered by then. The umpires had already decided that the score was 129, and Richards, relaxing, tried to drive the ball. He had scarcely lifted a ball. Cordie jumped high as what would have been a memorable home run. He was still in the air. Richards was then 67, over half the score.

Had he gone, the course of the game would have been different. Glamorgan never gave up, instead, he accelerated, hitting the driver harder and harder. The driver's side can do what the fielding side can do when they face such a batsman.

In such a mood.

First Innings: 215 for Glamorgan, 100 for Glamorgan.
 Second Innings: 169 for Glamorgan, 100 for Glamorgan.
 Third Innings: 169 for Glamorgan, 100 for Glamorgan.
 Fourth Innings: 169 for Glamorgan, 100 for Glamorgan.
 Fifth Innings: 169 for Glamorgan, 100 for Glamorgan.
 Sixth Innings: 169 for Glamorgan, 100 for Glamorgan.
 Seventh Innings: 169 for Glamorgan, 100 for Glamorgan.
 Eighth Innings: 169 for Glamorgan, 100 for Glamorgan.
 Ninth Innings: 169 for Glamorgan, 100 for Glamorgan.
 Tenth Innings: 169 for Glamorgan, 100 for Glamorgan.

C. G. Greenidge, c	Llewellyn, b	58
D. Armstrong		58
J. Dwyer, b	Davis	58
E. B. Jesty, l-b-w, b	Nash	18
T. H. M. C. Gilliat, not out		10
Extras (l-b 2, n-b 6)		8
Total (3 wkts)		165
P. J. Sainsbury, J. M. Rice		165
M. N. S. Taylor, N. G. Cowley		165
G. R. Stephenson, R. S. Herman		165
not bat.		
FAIL OF WICKETS:	1-51, 2-76,	
3-100, 4-100		
BOWLING: Armstrong, 7-5-58-1		
Cordle, 11-3-53-0; Nash, 10-4-		
0-50-1; Davis, 3-0-20-1		
Solanky, 2-0-19-0		
Umpires: W. E. Alley and C. Cook		

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent.

When word got round the town that Gifford had declared a nice lot of people came to watch the worthwhile finish. But Boycott knew best; or so he thought. He was not going to let the Yorkshire side would have no earthly side of winning the championship prize, which they were expected to win yesterday's unplaceable brand of castanets. In the old days, it was a very different matter, but not any more.

Even the umpires were pointed out looking for the Yorkshire dressing room as the time came and went for Boycott to take his place. When Gifford had shown that Worcestershire would have a crack at a feasible target.

"It was a very short aspect," said in case, for it was a slow and easy pinch; but without a doubt, there was a great deal of them. Worcestershire are short of experience or of any depth in the game, but I think they could have lost. To most of the Yorkshire side, I imagine, it must have been a very long day.

[illegible]

Rain in London produced an early draw between Middlesex and Somerset at Lord's while Surrey, who were the first to play, were out of the match by the time Derbyshire at the Oval, were also frustrated. Steady rain finally caused a draw to be declared at 2.45 with paddles on the pitch and its surroundings. Derbyshire, at 71 for seven, still had to face a formidable defeat after surviving the extra ball hour on Thursday night. It was a very good performance, suffering from

back injury, would have been able to bat, making the situation even more annoying for Surrey. But the return of the captain from their championship match with Leicestershire at Leicester yesterday, losing seven wickets for 61 runs, by the close.

The man who nearly brought Leicestershire victory was their slow left-arm bowler Birkenshaw, who finished with figures of five for 20. He was supported by the wickets of Greig and Parsons with successive balls.

But even though Leicestershire bowled 22 overs in the last hour of the match, they were unable to

Oxford

Kent took less than 20 minutes to capture Oxford University four wickets to win by an innings and 100 runs at the Parks. Started in a hopeless position 30 for six, needing another 40 to make Kent bat again.

Their hopes of at least an innings defeat were dashed by Davidson and Fursdon, the overmatchers, but Graham soon dismissed both. Glover, who has been in form, made 57, which he defended well. Davidson took excellent catches at forward short and finished with five in the

Northampton
Northamptonshire had their grip when rain put an end to their hopes. Rain halted play at 11.00. They waited until six o'clock before giving up all hope. Warwickshire, needing 222, were 82 for seven when rain halted play. The War-

Michael Turner, Leicestershire's secretary-manager, yesterday called on the Test and County Cricketers Board to insist that boundaries be set at a level which he criticised as the short boundaries. When Leicestershire play Somerset at the John Player League Ground tomorrow.

"At Keovil there are two 50-yard boundaries, and in a ridiculous situation," said Turner, "at the same time the Test and County Cricketers Board insisted on how being at least 70 yards. Countries can use spinners and batsmen can use the long boundaries."

"One of the constant crux of the one-day game is the short boundaries," he said. "However, are the exceptions to the rule the inevitably play four or five runs off the boundaries and consequently it is utterly frustrating when you play a Test match where there are boundaries."

AT CAMBRIDGE		AT OXFORD	
Cambridge University drew with Nottinghamshire.		OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First 123 G. Pethammantham and Johnson 5 for 17.	
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings, 231 (G. J. Awerth 56; H. C. Litchman 4 for 64).		Second Innings	
Second Innings		* T. R. Glover, c Topley, b Girsh	
W. Spooner, not out, 10		A. C. Hamilton, c Johnson, b J	

Total	74
P. Roebuck	"C. J. Aworth
Corbett	"A. Daniel
P. Russell	"E. J. Jackson
P. J. Hayes	"W. Albrock did not bat.
BOWLING: R. 6-1-15-0	
Williamson	"16-3-1-0
W. G. 4-1-1-0	"12-0-0-0
White	"5-0-0-0
G. 4-0-1-0	"Burch
6-0-0-0	"0-0-0-0
Total	

BOWLING: Julien, 1-7; Graham, 1-3; 3-2; 10-7-12-4; Johnson, 5-3; Graham-Brown, 1-1 (all); 6-0-0 Taylor, 1-1; Cowdrie, 1-0 1-0.

KENT: First innings, 308 for 10. W. Johnston 105, R. A. V.

With the Africans

On the situation in Moscow where a construction no strike is endangering the Olympics, Lord Killanin said would be no proper information.

Lord Killam was asked about a project discussed during the NCC's assembly to solve the Chinese question by admitting only United Nations members to the

we had this rule in Munich, East Germany would not have been to be called "The Mediterranean Games of Algiers".—Reuters

Rhodesians stave off row with the Africans

Rome, May 16.—Rhodesian delegates stayed off a row with African nations today by keeping away from a (combined meeting of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the National Olympic Committees (NOC).

The IOC president, Lord Killanin, told a press conference after a morning session of the IOC-NOC meeting that the question of Rhodesia's continued membership of the IOC is still sub judice because a special report on the situation will not be presented until the IOC session in Lausanne next Thursday. In reply to questions he added that the Rhodesian delegates could have attended today's session, which was due to have

discussed the issue, "so but they decided not to go in view of the situation in the delegates' session. The question did not come up.

Rhodesian delegates agreed earlier this week not to attend NOC sessions here at the request of officials so as to avoid fierce clashes with African representatives. But there was no indication that the sitting in the NOC NOC talks. Lord Kilgallon said both Rhodesian and African delegates would appear before the IOC next week and the decision on Rhodesia's status could only be made then.

China's application for membership would probably be discussed here during the afternoon session but no decision on this either could be made until Lausanne.

Lord Killarin said, China's application was being treated like that of any country, except for the fact that the Chinese application there is a provision for jurisdiction over Taiwan". He confirmed that he had met a representative of the All-China Sports Federation in Rome this week about Chinese and Taiwanese officials both of whom he said were in Lausanne although at present there are no plans for their presence there.

Lord Killarin was asked about a project discussed during the NOC's assembly to solve the Chinese question by admitting only Chinese athletes to the 1992 United Nations Olympic Games. He replied: "This project hasn't come up to us yet, but we had this rule in Munich, East Germany would not have been

allowed to compete. If we are involved in UN rules we will have more problems instead of less," he said.

On the situation in Mexico, where a construction workers' strike is endangering the 1968 Olympics, Lord Killanin said there would be no proper information until Canadian officials reported to the IOC in Lausanne. He said it would be wrong to speculate about possible alternatives to Montreal.

"At present, I am not sure if Montreal is going ahead as the site of the Games," he said.

In reply to a question, Lord Killanin said the Mediterranean Games next August would go ahead despite the exclusion of Israel, although they would not be called "The Mediterranean Games of Algiers." —Reuters

Miralla wins Irish 1,000 Guineas as favourite finishes fourth

1	50	IRISH 2-0 GUINEAES (Gp 1: 3-0, 2-1, 2-1, 736: 1m)
2	12-0	Auction Ring (Sir M. Sobell, W. Harrn, 9-0)
3	12	Dempsey (C. A. Moore), A. J. Macwell, 9-0
4	12	Gay Pandango (A. Gioia), M. V. O'Brien, 9-0
5	3-64	Golden Girl (J. J. Fenderholt, S. Strain, 9-0)
6	42-4	Golden Girl (A. Gioia), R. 9-0
7	7-22	Granny (Sir C. Villidini, P. Wabner, 9-0)
8	1-10	Golden Girl (A. Gioia), R. 9-0
9	1-10	Mark Anthony (Capl. M. D. Leone), C. Brittain, 9-0
10	5-23	Golden Girl (A. Gioia), R. 9-0
11	5-23	Ours Paul (A. Gioia), R. 9-0
12	12	Radiant Bay (R. J. Downes), D. Wold 9-0
13	12	Golden Girl (A. Gioia), R. 9-0
14	12	Golden Girl (A. Gioia), R. 9-0
15	12	Golden Girl (A. Gioia), R. 9-0
16	12	Golden Girl (A. Gioia), R. 9-0
17	12	Golden Girl (A. Gioia), R. 9-0
18	12	Golden Girl (A. Gioia), R. 9-0
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PERSON: LASTNAME, FIRSTNAME, AFFILIATION,
RESIDENCE, CITY, EMPLOYER, DATES, 40.

OFFICIAL SCRATCHINGS: Derby,
Enoch: Derby (USA), Quiet (ing) (USA)
(eng), May 15, Goodwood Cap, Good-
wood, Royal. All engagements (dates):
unbroken.

6.0: 1. Mallowrow (100-50); 2. Buckingham (1-1); 3. Lepin (15-2).
9 min. Duke Army did not run.

6.20: 1. Chandler (100-50); 2. Duke's Road House (1-1); 3. Crede's Daughter (11-1). 9 min. Winter Rain 6-1 fav.

7.0: 1. Rapid Pass (1-1); 2. Sunny



PRIX LUPIN (Group I: 3-y-o: £48,000: 1m 2½m: Longchamps tomorrow)

1029-11	Trepain (R. Schaefer, F. Baudin, 9-y-o)	P. Pae
02-08	Monte Serrano (R. Grillo, B. Glacoz, 5-y-o)	A. Bader
02-08	Frontage (N. B. Jumi, M. Zilber, 9-y-o)	L. Pinguet
023-11	Monte Serrano (R. Grillo, B. Glacoz, 5-y-o)	A. Bader
111-1	Mariacé (Baron G. de Rothschild, J. M. de Clouhersay, 9-y-o)	
05-3	Metahawk (Mrs E. Stern), H. van de Poel, 9-y-o	R. Jahn
22-2020	Brenn J. Verbeumer, A. Reed, 9-y-o	F. Horn
22-2020	Brenn J. Verbeumer, A. Reed, 9-y-o	F. Horn
230-01	Val du Fleu (D. Wudewitz), A. Penna, 9-y-o	Int. Markt
8-0-1	Mariacé, 21 Green Dances (coupled with Brenn), 8-y-o	8
8-0-1	Mariacé, 21 Green Dances (coupled with Brenn), 8-y-o	8

By Our Racing Staff
5.30 CROISSETTE is specially recommended. 6.55 Flukebridge. 7.2
Alarm Call. 7.50 Rolus. 8.20 Doonside. 8.50 La Carraegen.
By Our Newmarket Correspondent
5.30 Lady Ice. 6.20 Tudor Lord.

WATERLOO
 6:07. **McIntosh** (very fast) 22.0
 Hurdington 13.1-1. 3. **Lepp** 13.2-2.
 7 run. **Dick** **Chandler** did not run.
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